

THE AMERICAN
LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

November 1996

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PAGE 8

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 141, No. 5

The Magazine for a Strong America

November 1996

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COVER Americans in uniform are the guarantors of our freedom and the general peace.
AP/Wide World Photo by Dieter Endlicher.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.9 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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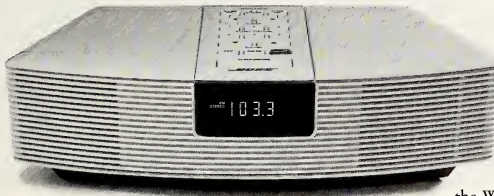
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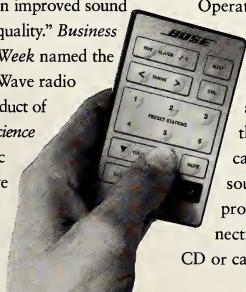
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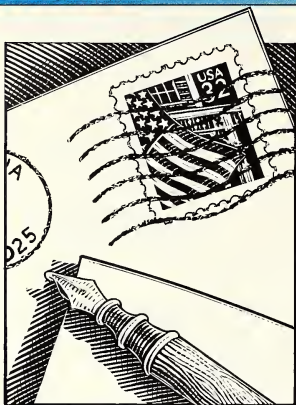


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Bosnia Thanks

I'M a soldier in the U.S. Army who has been serving his country proudly for four and a half years now. I am currently in Bosnia supporting the peacekeeping mission. I am writing to give praise and thanks to The American Legion for offering free membership to soldiers participating in Operation Joint Endeavor. I am very proud to be part of another family which has and still does stand up for American democracy.

Post 568 in my hometown of Leesburg, Ohio, has been wonderful in supporting my efforts in the military and in supporting our community. I'm honored to be part of such a patriotic group of people.

*Justin L. Saunders
Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia*

Goldin Words

MR. Daniel A. Goldin's most informative and educational interview ("Rocketing Toward the Final Frontier," August) should be required reading worldwide. The continued advancement and knowledge of our society and our nation in the area of space exploration and the study of astronomy brings a thought to mind. It is a source of wonder to those of us who have faith and religious beliefs.

Mr. Goldin's clear answers to your questions brought a practical knowledge to those of us who have been unaware of the wonders our future holds in the universe.

*David J. Gould
Largo, Fla.*

AS a Legionnaire and a senior citizen, I was shocked by Daniel S. Goldin's space station cost estimate: \$40.1 billion! He says "It's worth the cost." Did he ask the millions of downsized persons who are frantically looking for employment?

*Frank Serdahely
Philadelphia, Pa.*

Orange Poison

JUST a note to say how much I appreciated your excellent article about Agent Orange ("The Color of Lies," August). It was an excellent piece of journalism and, I think, a major help in keeping hope alive for some measure of justice for Vietnam veterans and their families—and Vietnamese, too. Good job.

*Jim Murray
Boston, Mass.*

YOUR Agent Orange article sounds much too familiar: the government running to hide from any problem that might cause a headache for it. My wife received one of the "Swine Flu" shots during a government-sponsored drive to get everyone inoculated.

The drug companies wouldn't make the vaccine unless held "harmless" by the government because of the toxic effects it might have on people getting the vaccine.

Two weeks after getting her shot, she could not wrap Christmas presents. When I tried to get help for her, I was told "Not our fault, she would have gotten ALS (Lou Gehrig's) disease anyway." She died two years later. If the government ever provides help for any problem it causes, it would be a miracle.

*John J. Kent
Hamilton Square, N.J.*

Wild About Nature

THE Constitution says that no one may be deprived of his legally acquired property without due process and just compensation. That is being regularly violated. The U.N. is being given more and more control of National Parks.

While the Constitution prohibits the establishment of a national religion, some of our top officials are trying to impose the worship of Mother Earth,

paganism. Remember Thomas Jefferson's seal: Resistance to tyranny is service to God.

*George W. Walters
Dayton, Tenn.*

I ENJOYED reading James J. Kilpatrick's article "Woodpeckers, Mallards and Us," (August). Thank you for publishing it and for calling this very serious problem to our readers' attention. Veterans are fighters, and now is our chance to win this war and change the Endangered Species Act.

*Bert Klineburger
San Antonio, Texas*

KILPATRICK'S story contains many gross errors. It's a disgrace to your magazine and the intelligence of your readers. Most glaring is the fact that there are no Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers in the northwest. Printing an article such as this makes all other stories in your magazine unbelievable. Weed out the garbage.

*Allan L. MacDonald Sr.
Bridgewater, N.J.*

THIS distorted propaganda piece does neither our magazine or the author credit. As an owner of large timber holdings, I recognize the need for regulation of this industry. Sometimes timber companies forget that much of the land they log is owned by us—the citizens of the United States.

*Thomas Ward
Baltimore, Md.*

Love and Service

"MARRIED to the Military" (June) was of extreme interest since we have a married son just completing 10 years in the Army, as well as another married son and a daughter-in-law in the reserves. Financial problems top their list, but the problems are often caused or made worse by delays in the military pay system! With today's emphasis on developing special skills, the number of moves, schools, allowances, skill payments, bonuses, etc. can seemingly overwhelm the paymaster system at times.

This means they either have to borrow money or postpone something

Please turn to page 64

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*Want to feel better during the day?
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America has become a nation of the chronically sleep-deprived. The Better Sleep Council reports that over the past 20 years, we Americans have added around 158 hours, or nearly an entire month each year, to our job schedules. That's not to mention the time we spend working hard to care for our families and homes. Sleep deprivation is caused by both lack of time spent sleeping and poor quality sleep. Sound familiar? Then you owe it to yourself to read on!

SLEEP DEPRIVATION CAN BE DANGEROUS

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, sleep-deprived drivers are vulnerable to "micro-naps" lasting four or five seconds—plenty of time at highway speeds for a fatal crash to occur. Disrupted sleep and sleep disorders cost American businesses billions of dollars annually in lost productivity, industrial accidents and higher medical bills. Lack of sleep also was implicated in the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the space shuttle Challenger disaster and the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island.

Loss of sleep during the night is responsible for increased vulnerability to illness, a tendency to nod off at work the next day, and even loss of creativity and clarity of thinking, say British researchers. Power tools can become dangerous weapons in the hands of someone who is not well rested. And almost everyone is familiar with the physical aches and pains that occur because of poor quality sleep.

DO YOU NEED MORE SLEEP, OR JUST BETTER SLEEP?

On the average, most adults require seven and a half to eight hours of sleep per night, and a full cycle including deep sleep is required for us to feel adequately rested in the morning. Any number of factors can interfere with

deep, nourishing sleep—including cigarette smoking, worry, a noisy environment and physical discomfort.

Air-cushioned support has been proven to positively affect three key factors that determine the quality of sleep: spinal alignment, pressure points and physiology.

We try remedies from pain medication and sleeping pills, to chiropractic care and self-relaxation techniques in order to get better sleep and rid ourselves of morning aches and pains. But new sleep surface technology offers a simpler solution for many people who toss and turn.

THE FIRST REAL BREAKTHROUGH IN SLEEP SURFACE TECHNOLOGY IN OVER 100 YEARS

Even if you just bought a new bed, you may be sleeping on an antiquated surface! Developed a century ago, innerspring mattresses can create uncomfortable pressure points that interfere with total relaxation. Waterbeds made a big splash in the '60s, but even those labeled "firm" can produce a hammock effect, which can cause the spine to curve unnaturally. Fortunately, a new technology has come through test after test with flying colors: the SELECT COMFORT® sleep system.

The Select Comfort adjustable firmness mattress uses air which distributes body weight more evenly and provides proper support.

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control that digitally tells you the firmness level that's perfect for you. And, you can let air in or out to change the mattress firmness, depending upon how your body feels each night. This is essential for couples, because two people of different shapes and sizes have different support needs. A typical mattress is unlikely to provide the ideal comfort and support for each person.

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Heard On
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— Marc P.,
Brooklyn, NY

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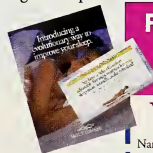


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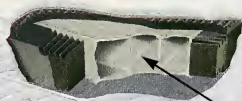
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Nat'l. Cmdr.
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Legionnaires
remember
Veterans Day
with a
moment
of silence.



Prelude to Service

TO MOST Americans, Veterans Day comes and goes with a moment of silence. Taking a pause from everyday life to remember the men and women who fought for our country is only right but not nearly enough.

In fact, the proud and somber protocols of Veterans Day used to be part of almost every American's life. Every year, families would watch members of the local American Legion Post parade and salute as the color guard raised Old Glory. Children watched their parents stand at attention, and the occasional tear would fall upon the shoulders of a buddy nearby.

These scenes are not common today. But they live on in the pages of old issues of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, and they need to live again.

As Legionnaires, it is our responsibility to set an example for others. If we don't show up at Veterans Day activities and services, how can we expect others to view the commemoration with any reverence? Instead of just having a barbecue or going shopping, spend the morning honoring your fellow veterans in some way.

It's easy to forget this obligation when you balance family, jobs, a car that seems to demand constant care, and a garden on the verge of being swamped by weeds. I've heard many Legionnaires say that the routine isn't so routine anymore.

When you think about what we went through in the military and in war, a moment of silence is appropriate but not enough. We need to show our families, our friends and our neighbors our commitment to Veterans Day before we can expect them to honor it, our proven comrades who did all that they could—and our absent friends who so early suffered what all of us must.

For their memory we can visit local schools and tell the children how well their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents loved their country. In carrying on their mission, we can volunteer to testify to clubs and organizations of the faith and patriotism of those who secured our freedom and didn't count the cost.

I am of the generation that saw the United States Army advertising for enlistments with the appeal, "even a country needs love." As veterans, we uniquely share the sure and certain knowledge that a country especially needs love. Thus we labor in fellowship to raise funds, support color guards, urge local city councils to pass proclamations, find worthy and challenging activities for the children of our communities and tell our stories to local papers and radio stations.

We found new Posts to continue our work for "God and Country." We expand our circle so more veterans can enjoy the priceless privilege of serving the people and ideals they shouldered arms to protect.

While a moment of silence is a small and appropriate tribute, veterans must not keep quiet when the American soul seems to fray. When our flag—through which blood calls to blood and generation to generation—is dishonored alike by once-respected institutions and dour guttersnipes, we have a mission.

When those who marched with us under that flag are slighted by bureaus responsible for their care, we have a crusade. As a soldier of the Vietnam War who found the VA there for him, I suggest we devote many non-silent moments to these points:

We do not urge the nation to take up the GI Bill of Health because veterans have earned it, though they surely have. We did not research the plan to make all American medical care better, though that will be a fortunate side-effect. It was not even a primary goal to save taxpayers' money, though that will happen as the plan matures. The GI Bill of Health is a good deal for the nation, its veterans and their families.

This is a matter of faith: We will not break faith with those who shared our bivouacs under every sky, and we would not have our nation break faith with itself. That is part of the oath I took a few short weeks ago when you honored me with election as National Commander.

On Veterans Day we ask the nation that commanded us in arms join us in taking to our souls a moment of quiet and a day of solemn celebration...as a prelude to a new season of service in peace.

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Should Congress Cease Funding National Endowment for Arts?

Rep. Philip M. Crane (R-Ill.)



YES Beginning before the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Americans have debated the proper role of the federal government. Ever since Republicans won control of Congress in 1994, this debate has become more pronounced. Democrats defend the government they created during 40 years as the majority in Congress. Republican budget cutters argue for a return to the traditionally smaller, limited government espoused by our founding fathers.

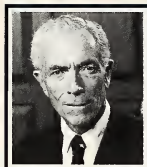
Exemplifying this larger debate is the argument over whether the federal government should be responsible for advancing our culture through taxpayer-funded bureaucracies such as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). As a former professor of U.S. history, I do not believe that these agencies are constitutional responsibilities of the federal government.

I know that supporters of the NEA are well intentioned and that the NEA has funded some worthwhile endeavors. However, those arguing that the NEA provides the breath for an otherwise lifeless art culture must ignore all the works produced without government funding before and since NEA's birth.

Because of budgetary constraints, NEA cannot possibly fund every artist in the United States, which leads to the government deciding which artists receive special taxpayer assistance. It is improper for a government ministry to decide what is "acceptable" art for Americans. Although I would defend the right of others to voluntarily raise private money to fund certain avant-garde art, I cannot rationalize using involuntarily raised tax dollars to fund art that offends many taxpayers.

Facing a \$5 trillion debt forces us in Congress to make some tough decisions with regard to our spending priorities. The arts cannot, and hopefully by 1998, will not, be a priority for the federal government. However, I have faith in American altruism and in the infallible wisdom of the free market. Therefore, I believe the NEA will not be missed and that art in our country will flourish without it. □

Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.)



NO Although I take a father's pride in its accomplishments, I must observe that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has been remarkably successful in furthering the ideals for which it was created. Every single community in our country now has access to its indigenous and creative national culture.

As NEA grew, it sponsored a few grants that I wish it had not, but that was no reason to throw out the solid arts networks built over 30 years. NEA has awarded more than 100,000 grants, less than 40 have resulted in any controversy whatsoever—a success rate of 99.96 percent.

Recently NEA improved its review and oversight process. In addition, the endowment took a budget cut of 40 percent in Fiscal Year 1996. It has eliminated a total of 89 positions, 47 percent of its staff. Anything more would severely curtail the availability and accessibility of countless arts programs in communities nationwide.

Every parent knows that the arts teach young people creativity, increase self-discipline and are a critical means of passing on an understanding of American culture and civilization. Study of even a single artistic discipline is of immense value to a child, who might go on to become an avid amateur or patron.

Moreover, NEA grants prime the pump for other levels of government and for corporate and private funding of the arts. Each year NEA draws matching funds of approximately \$1.4 billion from private, state and local patrons.

Corporate giving has declined in recent years despite economic growth. Further, removal of both the national recognition and the stimulation of partnerships offered through federal grants will produce a dramatic reduction in state and local support.

NEA has given rise to things of great beauty and has also done much to nourish our appreciation and access to the arts. When you attend a concert, watch a play, enjoy a public television show or visit an art exhibit, look for an acknowledgment of NEA funding—and then remember the vital role the endowment plays in enriching our lives. □

Your Opinions Count, Too.

Senators and representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510. You may call the U.S. Senate at (202) 224-3121; the House at (202) 225-3121.

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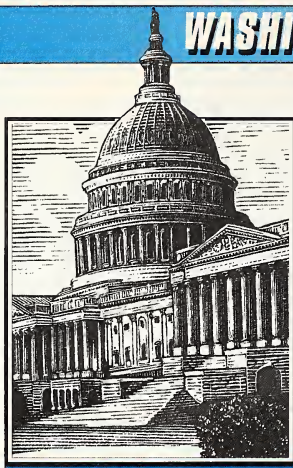
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By Cliff Kincaid

Warfare Welfare?

STRANGE bedfellows, indeed. The lone socialist in Congress is waging a war against "Pentagon socialism," and a conservative is helping him. Rep. Bernie Sanders of Vermont was joined by conservative Republican Rep. Christopher Smith of New Jersey in sponsoring a bill prohibiting "payoffs for layoffs"—a Pentagon program giving cash to defense firms that merge and downsize.

The legislation was itself downsized after passing the House when the Senate bought a proposal from Senators Sam Nunn and Bill Bradley to merely study the issue.

An aide to Sanders blamed this setback on lobbying from Lockheed Martin Corp., the Pentagon contractor which, after acquiring Loral Corp., will control 40 percent of the defense market. Lockheed Martin—which stands to collect \$2.6 billion in DoD funds to complete the mergers—reportedly threatened to sue the government if the Smith-Sanders bill cleared Congress. Said the exasperated aide, "We've got troops on food stamps, veterans are facing cuts and we turn around and spend money on this?"

The policy of providing "defense restructuring costs" was approved in 1993 by Defense Secretary William Perry and former Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch (now CIA director), who argued that the mergers

would save the Pentagon money in the long run.

Pickett's Charge

IT'S been over five years since Lt. Col. David Pickett and Cpl. Ernest Dawson were shot down, taken prisoner and then murdered while on a logistical support mission in El Salvador. Their killers, members of a leftist guerrilla group, were apprehended and jailed but then freed by El Salvador's Supreme Court.

Since the Salvadoran court ruling was issued after a U.N.-brokered peace agreement took effect, Pickett's father, retired Col. Edward F. Pickett, sought justice from the U.N. as well as the U.S. State Department. Both claimed their hands were tied because El Salvador is a sovereign nation.

But if the international community can apprehend and prosecute indicted war criminals in Bosnia, Pickett asks, why can't the U.S. or U.N. go after identified war criminals (who killed two Americans) in El Salvador? He thinks there's a loophole in international law and would like to see Congress close it.

Cyber Threats

IT was issued without fanfare, and no press briefing was held. But **Executive Order 13010**, setting up a President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection, authorized high-level "closed hearings" to deal with the emerging problem of "cyber threats" to the "continuity of government." This is bureaucratic jargon for the U.S. government surviving an attack routed along the information highway.

Issued by President Clinton on July 14—just a few days before the TWA disaster—the presidential directive not only addressed the problem of "physical threats" to government but also warned of cyber threats, defined as "threats of electronic, radio-frequency, or computer-based attacks on the information or communications components that control critical infrastructure."

Officials from six cabinet departments, the FBI, FEMA, the CIA and the National Security Agency will be among those staffing the commission.

A Fortune 4 Soldier

THEY used to be called mercenaries. Now they're called military consultants.

A group of retired Army generals known as Military Professional Resources Inc. (MPRI) is drawing big bucks—and fire—for training Muslim fighters in Bosnia.

MPRI, advertising itself as "The Greatest Corporate Assemblage of Military Expertise in the World," says it is firmly committed to "ethical business practices."

Not all agree. Retired Army Col. David Hackworth, a *Newsweek* columnist, says Congress should pass a law "that military retirees who advise a foreign army will lose their pensions for life."

Adds Jim Pate of *Soldier of Fortune* "This gang of mercenaries is acceptable to the Clinton Administration. Our gang of mercenaries is not." *SOF* fielded training teams for the Nicaraguan Contras against the Marxist Sandinista government in the 1980s.

MPRI had \$15 million in annual revenues before it signed a lucrative contract to train and modernize Bosnia's Army.

Global Yellowstone?

WHEN does a national park cease to be national property? That's what Rep. Don Young of Alaska is wondering.

Young has been noticing something and doesn't like what he sees: Yellowstone and other national parks being designated as United Nations "World Heritage Sites" and "Biosphere Reserves." Young is angry that Congress has been left out of the loop.

"Men and women from Third World kleptocracies decide what goes on in Americans' backyards, and their elected officials have nothing to say about it," his office complains. Young says the designations, regarded by some as honorary titles, actually threaten state sovereignty and property protections for private land owners.

Young's solution is an "American Land Sovereignty Act," designed to outlaw the international designations without congressional authorization. □



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MORE TROOP CUTS



OUR job security as an active duty GI might be in jeopardy again. As pressure to balance the federal budget builds, even many defense hawks say more cuts in the size of the force seem inevitable. Gen. John Shalikashvili, the military's top officer, warned recently that a force smaller than the current 1.45-million-member military is too small to fight two major regional wars at once. "There is no way to execute that strategy with any appreciably smaller force," Shalikashvili said.

As chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Shalikashvili understands the politics of strategy. "I'm certain that someone will articulate some alternative strategy that can be executed with a lesser force," he said.

And clearly he also understands the strategy of politics. "Whether that is going to be accepted by the president, that is a totally different matter," he added.

A lot, no doubt, will depend on who is president.

\$ FOR RETIREMENT



NEW penny-pinching plan sent to Congress would require you to start contributing a bit of each paycheck to a new retirement account. Getting troops to put 1 or 2 percent of their basic pay into a retirement fund would save the government \$739 million over the next five years, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) calculates.

The idea is one of dozens the CBO has for cutting the federal deficit.

In effect, the plan would mean a 2 percent cut in take-home pay for troops, but it would not reduce retirement benefits, which remain among the best available anywhere. Other government retirement plans already require worker contributions, the CBO noted.

Troops who leave the service before the 20 years minimum needed to qualify for retirement would be reimbursed their contributions plus accrued interest.

CBO projects requiring retirement contributions will have little impact on recruiting and retention.

CARD TRICK



ANY of you are receiving military-issued credit cards in the mail. The cards serve as membership cards to officer and enlisted clubs as well as general purpose credit cards.

They're intended to save the military money by turning club bookkeeping chores over to a credit

card company. But the cards require credit checks, which the services have authorized even for troops who don't want them. Some claim their financial privacy has been invaded.

Upset Army and Air Force personnel say arrangements between the military and the credit card company gives commanders unwelcome access to personal financial information. Some worry the credit card company will use commanders as collection agents. Others fear commanders will count financial problems against them at evaluation and promotion time.

The Air Force, which is heading the club credit card program, contends these fears are exaggerated.

And it insists the cards' benefits outweigh potential drawbacks. The Air Force alone will save \$4 million a year when the credit card company takes over club accounting. And troops with the credit cards will be eligible for benefits ranging from frequent flyer miles to discounts on purchases, the Air Force says.

DENTISTS NEEDED



Is ARE being cut from our forces, but you're safe from the ax if you're a dentist.

With starting pay of \$42,000 a year, it's like pulling teeth to get dentists to join the military. In civilian practice, many earn double the military salary.

The services predict a shortfall of dentists will reach almost 800—20 percent of the total needed—in just three years.

To halt decay in the dental corps, Congress is prescribing pay increases of up to \$6,300 a year and bonuses of up to \$30,000 for dentists who join the military. The dentist shortage has already made it hard for military family members and retirees to receive treatment from uniformed dentists.

Even troops aren't getting all the dental care they need. A 1995 survey discovered one in seven service members had dental problems severe enough to prevent deployment.

IN THE NEWS



ROOFS who speak foreign languages could earn an extra \$50 to \$100 a month in 1997 depending on how fluent they are.... Despite complaints by the services that joint duty assignments monopolize too many of their best officers, senior officials foresee no cut in the number of joint duty assignments.... The Pentagon will get \$50 million in 1997 to train civilian firefighters, police and medical workers to respond to terrorist attacks with nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.... Cigarette prices in exchanges are going up as much as 30 percent as the military joins the crusade to discourage smoking.... Medics have started taking DNA samples from Air Force Reservists as part of a move to replace dental X-rays with DNA records for identification purposes. □

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great team.

Fans were struck by the surprise victory of Yardley, Pa., in the Legion's Baseball World Series.

PROOF that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts, Yardley, Pa.'s American Legion Baseball team defeated Gonzales, La., 6-3, and won The American Legion World Series in front of 4,089 screaming fans in rural Roseburg, Ore.

The teams were tied 2-2 until the seventh inning when Gonzales scored a run and Yardley tacked on three, with another coming in the eighth.

"We're not a big-inning team, but we keep striking until we score," said Yardley Coach Joe Ferraro after his team claimed Region One's first Legion World Series triumph.

Statistically, Gonzales would have defeated Yardley with better individual players. But on the field and on the scoreboard, Yardley was the winner. "It was a total team effort," Ferraro said. "We don't have a lot of great players. We have a lot of good players who play great together."

Yardley's victory over Gonzales looms even larger in the numbers. Gonzales logged the most RBI, the most total bases and won four of the seven top awards for batting and pitching. Yardley's only honor was awarded to the coaching staff.

While Gonzales had five players named to the Baseball America American Legion World Series All-Tournament Team, Yardley had but one. As winning pitcher Ed Soley said: "We surprised a lot of people, but our team knew we could do it with a little luck."

"Luck isn't enough," said Jim Quinlan, direc-

tor of the Legion's baseball program. "Yardley won the 1996 American Legion World Series and defeated the nation's best amateur pitching and hitting developed by Legion coaches across the country after posting an impressive 45-11 record in the regular season."

During the five-day series, they won three out of four games with an impressive mix of fastballs, ferocious spirit, clutch plays and line drives. In the championship game, they defeated Gonzales despite two errors. (Gonzales also committed two errors to make things even.)

Yardley's road to the championship was paved with hard work and an awareness of the avidity of East Coast fans who expect and demand wins. There were times when a Legion World Series victory seemed imminent and others when it was as distant as their hometown—some 3,059 miles. But through the ups and downs—but by all measures more ups—the team from Pennsylvania won their championship trophy and took it home in style to the delight of thousands of baseball fans.

In the stands there was applause for all the teams. As former Reds and Tigers manager Sparky Anderson told the regional champions at a pre-series banquet, "you're all winners." What he didn't say was that only one team would be the champion. And it was Gonzales that came closest to the title before losing to Yardley.

"We're proud of the way we played but disappointed that we couldn't win the series," said Gonzales second baseman Casey Lambert after the championship game. "Being around all these great players makes us proud as a team of what we did."

Nestled in the Oregon mountains with the POW/MIA Flag flying over the centerfield fence and a VA hospital visible from the bleachers, the ball diamond crackled with youthful exuberance despite 102-degree heat. Players and fans connected in a spirit no longer found in the Major Leagues.

Joey Matassa of Burnside, La., came to watch his son—Gonzales left fielder James Matassa—win or lose. "He's a competitor. Our whole family is into this American Legion World Series rooting for Gonzales. We've got candles lit."

Auxiliary member Charlotte Sullivan of Midland, Mich., watched her son—Midland center fielder Ray Sullivan—and explained why just being at the ballpark was important to

Please turn to page 65



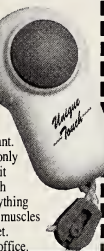
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Out Of The Ashes



PHOENIX FUROR—In claiming victory after their controversial exhibit, museum officials—much like the artists themselves—have spun history their own way.

plunged into a toilet, a pseudo-flag made of human hair and skin, and the much-discussed showstopper by Dread Scott Tyler, which requires you to walk across a U.S. Flag in order to register your feelings about flag decorum in a notebook. All told, the exhibit encompassed about 80 such "works."

While Phoenix museum director Jim Ballinger concedes in the *Museum News* piece that he was surprised by the vehemence of the public outcry, he also insists the exhibit was misunderstood (presumably by those unwashed philistines who just "don't get" art). Ballinger is quoted as contending that "two or three works [were] taken totally out of context," a remark that implies the Tyler piece and others of its kind were so different in tone from the rest of what appeared in Phoenix. More on this in a moment.

BALLINGER says in conclusion, "The role of a museum as I see it...is to let viewers go away making up their own mind." Ironically, this is an argument that parallels the "let the people decide" rallying cry used by the Citizens Flag Alliance (CFA) in promoting a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. But whereas CFA is sincere in its willingness to put its views to the test of popular will, the museum director is not so willing. For if Ballinger's intent was to allow those who viewed *Old Glory* to decide on its merits, then why did the exhibit end with a video that gave museum visitors what amounted to a lecture on the philosophical importance of the exhibit? (This, by the way, is reminiscent of the Smithsonian's original approach to displaying the *Enola Gay*, which was ultimately discredited by The American Legion. Not content just to provide information, Smithsonian curators sought to tell you how to *interpret* that information, and even how to *react* to it.)

The Phoenix video, 10 minutes of self-serving propaganda, took the position that art is art; that all art is equally valid; that one should look at art without making moral judgments—in short, that the artist enjoys carte blanche to do whatever he or she pleases. In discussing the attack on art by "repressive" forces in American society, the video pointed its finger at folks who had the audacity to suggest that art should meet some minimal standards of decency.

That's letting viewers make up their own minds?

By Steve Salerno

THE PHOENIX Art Museum exhibit, *Old Glory: The American Flag in Contemporary Art*, closed last June amid controversy and shame, but the arts community rushed to sound victory chimes nonetheless.

"The museum stood its ground," declares an article in the August issue of *Museum News*. After noting that Legionnaires and others had sought to shutter the display or at least dismantle some of its more offensive pieces, the article gloats, "The exhibit closed as planned...with all its original components still in place." Among those components were a flag

Steve Salerno is Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of this magazine.

'This is not my America. Nor, I suspect, is it yours.'

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A free society cannot survive without citizens' commitment to honor.

TASTELESS—Most viewers of the flag exhibit were offended by works such as the one below.



In any event, having spent an afternoon at the Phoenix museum, I'll tell you what went through this particular mind.

Understand first that I wanted to avoid jumping to any foregone conclusions. And so, one after another I roamed the cubicles of the exhibit, pausing to reflect not only on the works themselves, but the artists' stated motivations in creating them. A few I hadn't already read about stick out in memory: the ersatz vending machine filled with tiny sandwich-shaped flags, a send-up of "junk food patriotism"; a mutilated flag projecting upward from an old wooden desk, symbolizing the failure of school desegregation; *Napalm Flag*, a painting that depicts Old Glory as a bloody, grotesque battlefield.

Then, almost on my way out, I backed into a sculpture I'd somehow missed earlier. There before me stood a voluptuous, seductively posed, eight-foot take-off on the Statue of Liberty.

She was scantily clad, fondling one breast. And flowing from between her mini-skirted legs, under her rear end, was a U.S. Flag.

It stopped me cold. As objectionable as most of the exhibits were, you could offer some feeble explanation for them. You could, say, argue that a flag plunged into a toilet symbolizes the belief that America is "going down the tubes."

But what can you say about a near-naked Statue of Liberty with a flag flowing from its crotch?

It seemed clear that what the artist intended—the *only* thing he intended—was to strip Old Glory of all dignity, to thumb his nose at those who hold the flag dear. His "artistic statement" was: *I spit on your flag*.

That statue put the entire exhibit in perspective, answering a number of questions that had been buzzing through my brain. I had noticed,

for example, that the featured works ran mostly in a narrow range between sarcastic and contemptuous. You'd think that in an exhibit subtitled, *The American Flag in Contemporary Art*, there should have been a sampling of more positive work. Doesn't anyone with artistic talent have anything nice to say about America? If nothing else, how can today's artists fail to appreciate the unique freedom of expression they enjoy in the nation they disparage?

This overriding tide of anti-Americanism flowed from beginning to end. Much has been said of the headless Christ, yet it is only when you read the admitted motives of artist Hans Burkhardt that you grasp just how askew his thinking is. On a plaque that accompanied the work, Burkhardt said he lives "in a life where there's nothing but war," then he proceeded to tick off the two World Wars, Korea and so forth. Citing Desert Storm as the immediate impetus for the painting, he continued, "There must be other ways."

Fine. Many people share Burkhardt's anti-war sentiments. In fact, many people in American government shared that very sentiment when Saddam Hussein pushed into Kuwait. But let's not forget it was Hussein who made war necessary. (Or would Burkhardt have preferred that we simply let Iraq expand its borders at will?) Just as it was Hitler or Tojo or Mao Zedung who forced the issue in Burkhardt's earlier examples. So why take his disillusionment out on the U.S. Flag? Why us?

THE question repeated itself time and again as I walked the exhibit. *Why us?* Why was it that—almost regardless of circumstances—America always came out the heavy? According to various works in Jim Ballinger's exhibit, if a marginal group like the Klan devotes its energies to indoctrinating youngsters in hatred, it's America's fault. If a lone psychotic named Lee Harvey Oswald takes aim at a president, it's America's fault. If the nuclear gunslingers in charge of the Cold War (remember the Soviet Union?) drag the world to the brink of extinction, don't blame the Kremlin. Blame America.

Because of this, there was a numbing sameness to the Phoenix show, no matter how bizarre and original the individual works. It was a litany of death and despair. After a while, I realized, this was not about art. Not really. It was about what philosophers call *nihilism*—the belief that nothing is good, nothing is sacred, we are all doomed....

That is not my America. Nor, I suspect, is it yours. Where is the optimism on which this grand nation was founded? Where is the belief in the fundamental goodness of the human spirit that underlies the constitutional amendments often quoted by those who defile the flag in the name of freedom? The Founders knew, after all, that a free society could not survive without a commitment to honor from its people.

Instead of spouting disingenuous rationales and hollow cries of victory, Ballinger should take a deeper look at the mentality of the artists whose works he displayed. He might find that the evil they so determinedly portray is linked to their own troubled hearts, not the one symbol that remains mankind's greatest embodiment of the quest for virtue. □

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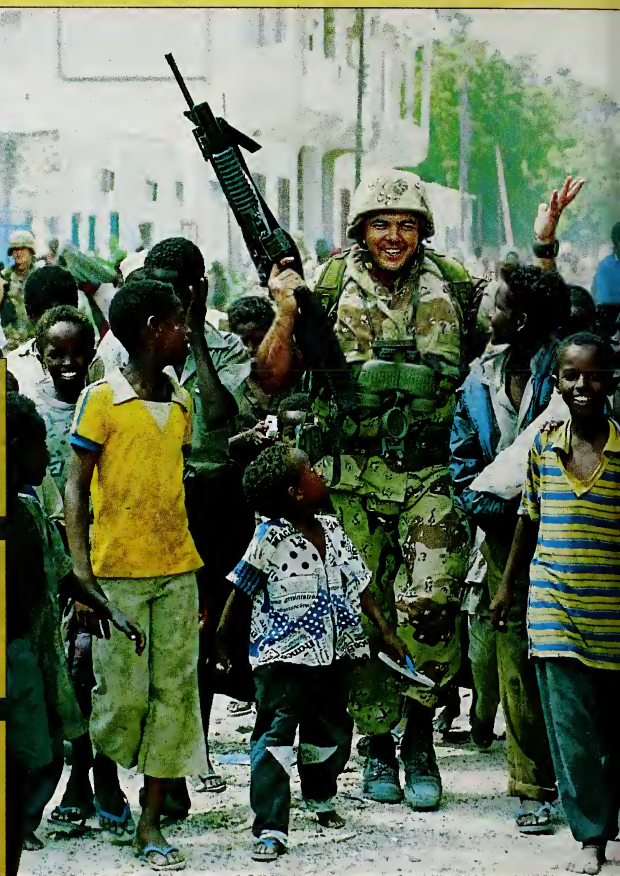
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Life changed for residents of North Topsail Beach, N.C., (shown above) when Hurricane Fran roared through on Sept. 5, 1996.





Give GIs A Nobel Prize



Look at the record. This century, the U.S. Armed Forces have done more to advance the cause of world peace than any other organization.

By N.J. Kressel

Excerpted with permission by The Forward.

THE COMMITTEE that selects Nobel Peace Prize winners has missed a wonderful opportunity for a more inspired selection: the U.S. armed forces.

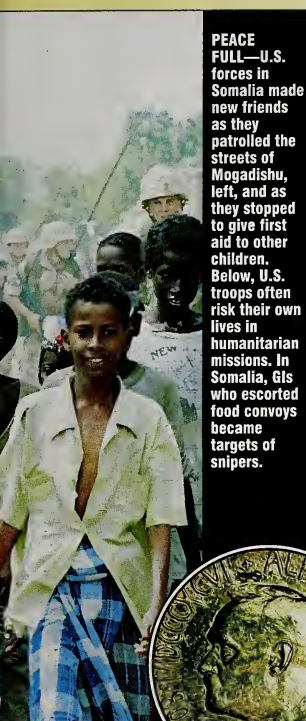
Orwellian? Not at all. The only reservation is that our Armed Forces might then be judged by the company of past winners, which include a number of unsavory characters, such as Le Duc Tho, a mastermind of North Vietnamese aggression (who, thankfully, declined the prize).

In fact, the requirement for Nobel success has often been doing something very bad, and then ceasing to do it. The 1993 winners, South African president F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, fit the pattern. Both have taken steps that may result in a peaceful solution in South Africa, though how just and how lasting a peace remains a question.

Yet, what lessons might an aspiring peace-lover discern from the resumé of these two men? That, as long as one ultimately bows to political realities, it is okay to spend most of one's career as an official of a racist state, or as a leader of a violent, terrorist group.

Anwar Sadat, winner in 1978 along with Menachem Begin, made no bones about his Nazi sympathies in his early

PEACE FULL—U.S. forces in Somalia made new friends as they patrolled the streets of Mogadishu, left, and as they stopped to give first aid to other children. Below, U.S. troops often risk their own lives in humanitarian missions. In Somalia, GIs who escorted food convoys became targets of snipers.



years. Mikhail Gorbachev, for all his accomplishments, had been a tool of totalitarianism for many years. With such a pattern of awards, can anyone doubt that Yasser Arafat, the butcher of countless innocents, will be the next winner?

Of course, not all Nobel Peace Prize winners have such filthy hands. Many fall into the category of the 1985 winners, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a well-intentioned but misguided group devoted to mindless disarmament. Amnesty International, the 1977 winner, has always been biased against Western countries and Israel. Some individuals, like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and groups, like the International Red Cross, do plenty of good but don't advance the cause of peace very much.

If next year's Nobel Prize selection committee is serious about rewarding the organization that has done the most to advance the cause of justice and peace in the world during the past half century, a more inspired choice would be the U.S. armed forces. Besides rewarding a deserving organization, this selection would teach people much about



the real sources of world peace.

The U.S. armed forces have saved the world from untold brutality, racism and murderousness several times during the century. They remain the reason that we, in the West and elsewhere, can conduct work peaceably and reap some rewards from that work.

Where would Western Europe be now if the American troops had not stood their ground against the imperial Soviet armies? Where would South Korea be? Armed forces do not necessarily cause wars; they sometimes prevent them by creating a strong deterrent to potential aggressors. The fear of American retaliation has undoubtedly dissuaded countless evildoers during the past half century and, to that extent, we live in a Pax Americana.

This lesson has been learned by the Kuwaitis who, better than most, have come to appreciate the humanitarian side of American force.

There is also a human dimension to such an award. Consider the character of American soldiers who go to Somalia to feed the starving, only to find themselves the targets of brutal warlords. They are serving no strategic American interest except insofar as America benefits from its image as a doer of good deeds.

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N.J. Kressel, chairman of the department of psychology at William Patterson College of New Jersey, has recently published Mass Hate: The Global Rise of Genocide and Terror.



WAR

of

WORDS



AP/WIDE WORLD

By Johanna Neuman

THE MILITARY has long sought dominance over the media during war, if only to contain the enemy's access to information. But never is this policy of censorship more important than when a new technology gives journalism additional speed.

In World War II, radio was new, and all broadcast copy was vetted by the censor. Vietnam was an undeclared war where the new medium, television, had a virtually unrestricted run of a battlefield nominally controlled by the South Vietnamese. Journalists could rent planes, drive

From the book Lights, Camera, War: Is Media Technology Driving International Politics? Copyright 1996 by Johanna Neuman. Reprinted by arrangement with St. Martin's Press, Inc., New York, NY.



DISHING IT OUT—CNN's Peter Arnett (left) was the only western reporter allowed to stay in Baghdad when Desert Storm ignited.

UNDER FIRE—A journalist (far left) dressed in a chemical warfare suit works at his computer during a SCUD attack.

cars, hitch a ride to the battlefield. They could also fly their news footage quickly to Bangkok or Hong Kong, where it could be processed and transmitted to headquarters in New York. Without the ability to limit journalists' access to the battlefield, the military had a harder time influencing their copy.

By the Persian Gulf War, satellite television had given journalism enormous speed, and military planners had no intention of letting it meander

freely in the war zone.

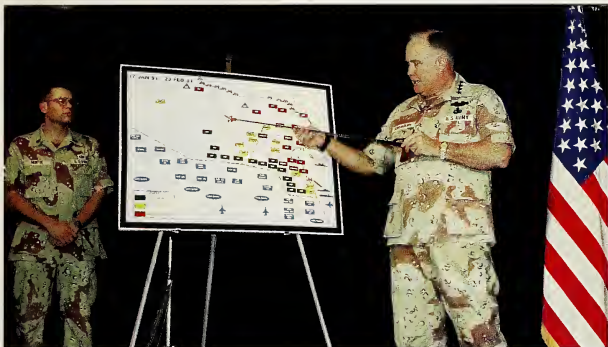
There is a straight line from the Falklands in 1982 to the Persian Gulf War in 1991. In a series of incursions (not wars really), the American military tested the British approach to managing the media. The first was Grenada in 1983, where reporters were kept off the island for several days. Journalists who did reach the island were detained.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, WAR—On-the-scene coverage by CNN teams gave viewers a daily up-front seat to live action during the war in the Persian Gulf.

GAME PLAN—Gen. Schwarzkopf discusses ground-war strategy at a news conference in Riyadh. Reporters often gathered news from media pools.

ADVANCE REPORTING
the Pentagon decided to send the pool from Washington rather than organize a local pool of reporters who were already covering increased tensions on the ground. As a result, the press pool arrived four hours after fighting had begun. Even as locally based reporters for CNN and other outlets raced around Panama City in search of news, the official Pentagon pool was kept at command headquarters. The Pentagon offered the journalists a lecture on Panamanian history and access to CNN television reports on Panama.



RONALD B. HARRIS

SATELLITE TV HAS ADVANCED THE PACE OF JOURNALISM. IN WAR COVERAGE, IT HAS MADE NEWS MORE POTENT.

In the aftermath of Grenada, journalists negotiated a new system of coverage with the Pentagon. The press agreed to a "pool" of journalists and photographers representing newspapers, magazines, wire services, radio and television, who would report back to the rest of the media housed at a military headquarters. The Pentagon pool system saw its first test in Panama. It was not a success.

On the eve of the Panama invasion,

"We actually watched a Bush news conference," said *Dallas Morning News* reporter Kevin Merida. Field trips were finally arranged, but the fighting had long since ended. Theirs was journalism's equivalent of a cleanup mission.

Journalists demanded quicker access to the combat zone, but by the time U.S. forces landed in Saudi Arabia to engage Iraq, the field was nearly cleared of journalists. The top brass, from Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf on down, did not want a workable pool arrangement so much as a controlled press. Veterans of Vietnam, they remembered not that war was messy but that news accounts made the military look inept. And in Saudi Arabia they had a host country not accustomed to issuing visas to journalists by the thousands. Good politicians, Schwarzkopf and his allies gave lip service to the pool system, keeping the number of reporters traveling with combat units to a manageable 192. They were charged with the responsibility of sending copy back to their 1,400 colleagues at briefing centers in Riyadh and Dhahran.

But reports first had to survive the battlefield communications systems, and then military censors at headquarters. Often it took three or four days for files to reach New York. The system may not have been intended to last more than a few days into war, as the Pentagon later insisted—and a good thing too, because veteran reporters insist that the pool system was on the verge of collapse when Iraq surrendered.

The Pentagon managed the news in other ways as well. Videotapes of successful bombing runs were released selectively by the Pentagon. Briefings were scheduled consecutively so that reporters could be preoccupied with official words from Saudi Arabia, Europe, and the United States most of the day. Just before the start of the ground war, the military used the media to spread disinformation to the Iraqis, hoping to leave the impression that the invasion would be an amphibious attack on Kuwait. Even the decision to end the war after 100 days was made with one eye on the public-relations value of a round number, at least in the view of Saudi Arabia's top commander, General Khaled bin Sultan. The general also believed that the Americans gave away too much to the Iraqis during peace talks because they wanted "a media event" instead of a surrender.

And, unlike Vietnam, there were no photo opportunities of caskets. Bush had been deeply offended when, during the Panama invasion in December 1989, live television pictures of caskets being brought home to Dover Air Force Base were broadcast on a corner of the screen as he exchanged light banter with reporters. So when troops began pouring into the Saudi desert, the Bush White House was very clear: No cameras would be allowed when bodies came home to rest.

"The first casualty when war comes is truth," Hiram Johnson, a senator from California, had remarked as the United States entered World War I. In the Persian Gulf, truth suffered some. Nearly every day military briefings informed a world audience that Scud launch sites in Iraq had been destroyed. Nearly every day Israelis got private intelligence that the launch sites were undamaged, having been moved during the night. Lieutenant General Thomas Kelly, one of the Pentagon's key briefers on the Persian Gulf War, says there was no intent to

Please turn to page 66



HEALTHY RETURNS

The VA would be allowed to collect and retain money from a variety of sources. The result? A full range of health services for veterans and their families.

By Miles Z. Epstein

THE FUNDING of VA's medical system has been under pressure for nearly two decades from an increasing need for services on one hand and from increasingly stringent budget considerations on the other. VA's health-care system needs an infusion of cash to ensure it can continue to deliver quality care to the nation's veterans.

"VA has done a fine job providing care, despite budget shortfalls, but it just can't continue to do business as usual if it is to survive and care for veterans," says National Commander Joseph J. Frank. "That's why The American Legion GI Bill of Health was carefully crafted to revitalize VA and to provide it with the resources it needs to meet the needs of veterans in the 21st century."

Frank, whose injuries in the Vietnam War made him a consumer of VA medical care, is not alone in that assertion. A former top VA medical official believes the proposed GI Bill of Health is the best medicine for a healthier veterans' health-care system.

"I am convinced that the GI Bill of Health can allow VA to provide cost-effective quality care to veterans," says Tom Mullen, a leading health care consultant. Mullen, a former deputy chief medical director for administration at VA's Central Office in Washington, D.C., served for several years as VA's regional director of hospitals in the Midwest.

If adopted, the GI Bill of Health would allow VA to treat more veterans,

their spouses and children while making it more economical to do so. From a fiscal perspective, the GI Bill of Health is a winning proposition for all.

Government funding alone is not providing VA the money it needs to treat eligible veterans, nor is it expected to in the future. The American Legion found a way to fix the financial woes by proposing a plan that will change how VA health care is provided, who can receive care, and how it is paid for. Here's how it would work:

More money for VA. The GI Bill of Health fundamentally changes how the VA is reimbursed for the health care it provides. VA would be able to keep money received from third-party payers such as Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPUS and Tri-Care, third-party insurers and veterans who buy into the system. This proposal has been a long-time suggestion of The American Legion, and it's part of this new plan.

More important, money collected by the VA from third parties would remain with VA. Currently, what money hospitals do collect in copayments from third-party insurers is turned over to the U.S. Treasury.

More choices for veterans. The Legion, Mullen and other backers of the GI Bill of Health agree: "The GI Bill of Health gives the choice to veterans. Right now, there are veterans who want to use VA but cannot get in for treatment," says Mullen. "Under this plan, they would not have to go to VA, but they could if they wanted to. Because a veteran has the opportunity to choose VA for care, they will get better care under the GI Bill of Health."

- Veterans with service-connected illnesses or disability ratings of 50 percent or greater will continue to have access to VA care at no charge.

- Special-category veterans, poor veterans and veterans with a service-

connected disability rated at less than 50 percent will get VA care at either no charge or at reduced rates.

While protecting the interests of the veterans VA is treating, the GI Bill of Health also opens the system to veterans' families through a variety of innovative health-care plans. If you do not qualify for service-connected care or non-service-connected care (through means testing), Medicare, CHAMPUS, Tri-Care or any other method of reimbursing the VA for treatment, you still would be afforded two options to buy into the system, including:

- **Basic benefits package:** Hospital services, among them psychiatric care, services of health professionals, medical and surgical services (including women's health care services), outpatient services, 24-hour emergency service, preventive health service and diagnostic services.

- **Comprehensive benefits package:** All of the above plus pediatric services, mental-health and substance-abuse prevention and treatment, hospice care, extended-care services, authorized transportation services, durable medical equipment, outpatient prescription drugs, diagnostic devices and treatments, routine vision testing and eye care (including corrective lenses) and routine dental care.

- **Specialized services:** Any care authorized by *Chapter 17, Title 38, United States Code*, including but not limited to services such as rehabilitation for the blind, rehabilitation for spinal cord injuries and dysfunctions, treatment for chronic psychiatric illness (PTSD), and ongoing service for users of artificial limbs and sensory aid devices.

"Families and young people require less intensive medical care, and bringing them into the VA system makes

Miles Z. Epstein is the Executive Editor of this magazine.



OPERATING COSTS
Government funding
alone is not providing
VA the money it needs to
treat eligible veterans.

good economic sense," Frank says.

The GI Bill of Health would reduce costs by adding emphasis to preventive medicine, managed care, eligibility reform and increased opportunities for outpatient care. Today, only veterans who have either service-connected

problems or are poor are eligible for outpatient care. The GI Bill of Health would expand eligibility so that many more veterans could receive medical treatment.

No veteran served by VA will get slighted by the GI Bill of Health. In

fact, "the money the GI Bill of Health will create will revitalize VA after more than a decade of underfunding," says Chet Stellar, chairman of the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

More choices for VA, too. VA would enjoy a new freedom in the way it delivers care to our nation's veterans under the GI Bill of Health. It would have the ability to contract out for services that it cannot handle, such as pediatric care. Also, a number of university teaching hospitals affiliated with VA hospitals would provide facilities and other services for VA clients. More than 105 medical universities and hospitals are affiliated with 130 VA hospitals.

There will be provisions for a greater network of outpatient care facilities, creating more bed space for veterans in VA hospitals. The GI Bill of Health also allows VA to use managed care to better allocate its resources in its vast health care network.

"The GI Bill of Health will save money by allowing VA to manage itself better," says health-care expert Mullan. "This plan would allow VA to effectively control its costs."

Budget neutral.

Overall, Mullan says the best selling point for the Legion is that it's budget neutral. Adds Frank, "We can save money in the VA system and improve care for all veterans if the GI Bill of Health is enacted."

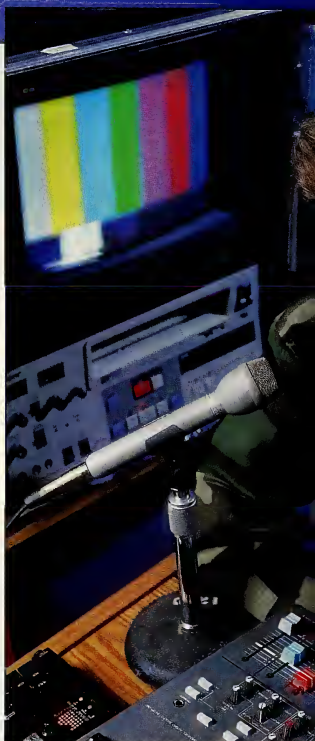
The measure already has captured the attention of lawmakers on Capitol Hill. The GI Bill of Health was introduced by Rep. James Longley, R-Maine, and cosponsored by Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt. Other members of Congress are warming to the proposal, H.R. 3950, as well.

Summing up. More money for VA. More choices for veterans. Greater flexibility of treatment. A new cost-effective program to make VA market competitive that's budget neutral. The GI Bill of Health is a win-win proposition for the nation. And the continuous infusion of funds from other public health programs and third-party insurers will make the VA system more responsive to the needs of veterans and their families. □

Uncle Sam's Mike Force



TALKIN' BALKAN—Sgt. Hank Minitrez was the DJ at Eagle Base Tuzla. He received a daily stream of written song requests on napkins, food trays and even a 100-lb dummy bomb.



By Ken Cauthern

ANY potential Howard Sterns, Rush Limbaughs or Casey Kasems at the broadcasting school for Armed Forces Radio and Television are hidden under crisp, wrinkle-free uniforms, spit-shined boots and brass so bright it might cause eye damage.

"This is not MTV and not *Good Morning, Vietnam*," says Col. Ronald Grubb, commanding officer of the Fort Meade Defense Information School (DINFOS). Grubb later

qualifies his remark, but the image persists.

There is no business of show business in the armed forces. The students at DINFOS are there to learn a military occupation specialty, plain and simple. There's no room for big heads or big egos. In 12 weeks, students must go from sounding like Daffy Duck on the air to the velvet delivery of Walter Cronkite.

"It's amazing to think how bad I was," recalls Sgt. 1st Class Peter Burt, a DINFOS graduate, who is now operations NCO for AFRTS. "One day in school I was doing a TV newscast, and the stage manager had to keep splashing witch hazel on me to dry me off because I was perspiring so much."

The first radio station for soldiers by soldiers signed on in 1941. It was an impromptu thing. Bored GIs posted

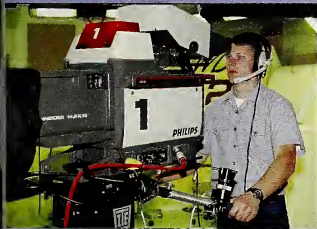
They shine their boots and brass like other troops. But when they go to work, military broadcasters are quick on the trigger with news and entertainment.

Ken Cauthern, based in Alexandria, Va., writes on a variety of general-interest military topics.

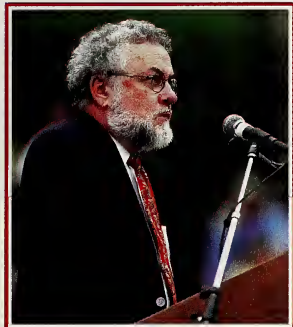
on Alaska's Kodiak Island got together and put KODK on the air. Short on tunes, they wrote to the record companies in Hollywood for donations and the companies responded generously. The War Department got whiff of it and thought it a good idea; the radio and television network that today cov-



BUTTERFLIES—Sgt. Lisa Dougan was more than a little stressed out the first day she got behind the mike at DINFOS. Now, she is confident and smooth in her delivery.



IN THE SHOP—The Defense Information School at Ft. Meade, Md., offers an in-depth curriculum covering all aspects of radio and television broadcasting.



JOHN E. HODGE

Good Morning, Vietnam!

'The one thing I tried to do in Vietnam was make it sound like a stateside radio program.'

Adrian Cronauer

ers 140 countries had begun.

When American troops were deployed to Bosnia in December 1995, Sgt. 1st Class Hank Minitrez was among them—and he had a mission. A 1989 graduate of the broadcast school, Minitrez was sent to Eagle Base Tuzla to be the “morning drive” DJ and to send back news reports and let soldiers’ families know what to expect. His station was a cramped gypsy truck with a electric heater for warmth.

“Every morning a group of infantry boys would bring us their laundry list of song requests on something different,” says Minitrez. The first requests came in on a napkin. Later, he received requests scribbled on cardboard food trays from the mess hall. The matter quickly exploded in a contest of sorts.

“Three or four mornings later, these guys from the mortar platoon brought a 100-pound dummy bomb they had dragged all the way across the base. On it they had taped all their requests.”

The Defense Information School, of which the broadcasting course is a part, trains its students to be competent off mike as well as behind it. The curriculum covers all phases of radio and television production. Students take turns writing spots, running the equipment, directing and being on air.

“I couldn’t ask for a better school,” says Airman Alex Patton. “Somehow they manage to teach in 12 weeks what it would take four years in college to learn.”

Like the majority, Patton enlisted to be a broadcaster. The requirements are stringent. Prospective students must submit an audition tape and pass a voice qualification test.

Seaman Mike Howlett, another student at the school, has the classic radio voice—deep baritone with perfect modulation. Before his enlistment, Howlett was a disc jockey and radio station program director in his home state of Washington. “When I’m behind the mike, sometimes I have to remind myself I am in the military now,” he muses.

He credits the broadcast school with teaching him tricks of the trade he never learned in civilian life, such as controlling “P” popping. Announcers who blow too much air when saying a word beginning with “P” cause a crackle on the microphone.

“In Washington, we got around it by putting a wind screen over the mike,” says Howlett. “But here they taught me how not to pop by adjusting my jaws.”

Sgt. Liza Dougan had no radio experience before attending the Fort Meade school. The first day she had to go behind the mike, her stomach fluttered with butterflies. “I was so stressed out, but the instructors told me to pretend I was talking to a friend and I was able to relax.”

Students have a cushion. Bloopers are not broadcast. All four television studios and six radio stations at the school are closed-circuit, for training purpose only. With this kind of supportive environment, few future broadcasters wash out. DINFOS has a three to eight percent attrition rate. Those who wash out are subject to the dictates of the service.

“One of our instructors used to say that if we did not make it as a broadcaster, then maybe we could make you a cook or a truck driver. The thought of that really made you hit the books,” Burt said.

Please turn to page 67

DEEP TROUBLE

By Miles Z. Epstein

IF THE captain of the *Komsomolets*, an advanced Russian Mike-class nuclear submarine, read Tom Clancy's 1984 novel, *The Hunt for Red October*, he might have remembered the book with painful irony on April 7, 1989.

That day, he too would lose his boat and attract the attention of the U.S. Navy, as an explosion aboard ship killed 42 of the *Komsomolets'* 69-member crew. Raging fires wracked the sub's titanium pressure hull and detonated conventional torpedoes in the forward compartment. When silence finally returned to the ocean waters 300 miles off the coast of Norway, *Komsomolets* had sunk in the 5,000 foot waters of the Norwegian Sea.

That was the end of the tragedy for the captain and his sailors—but the beginning of another possible tragedy for the rest of the world. For the accident had transformed one of the Soviet navy's most technologically advanced subs not just into a deep sea tomb but an environmental time bomb as well.

Miles Z. Epstein is Executive Editor of this magazine.

Sunken subs, with nuclear reactors and weapons, might surface as our next environmental nightmare.

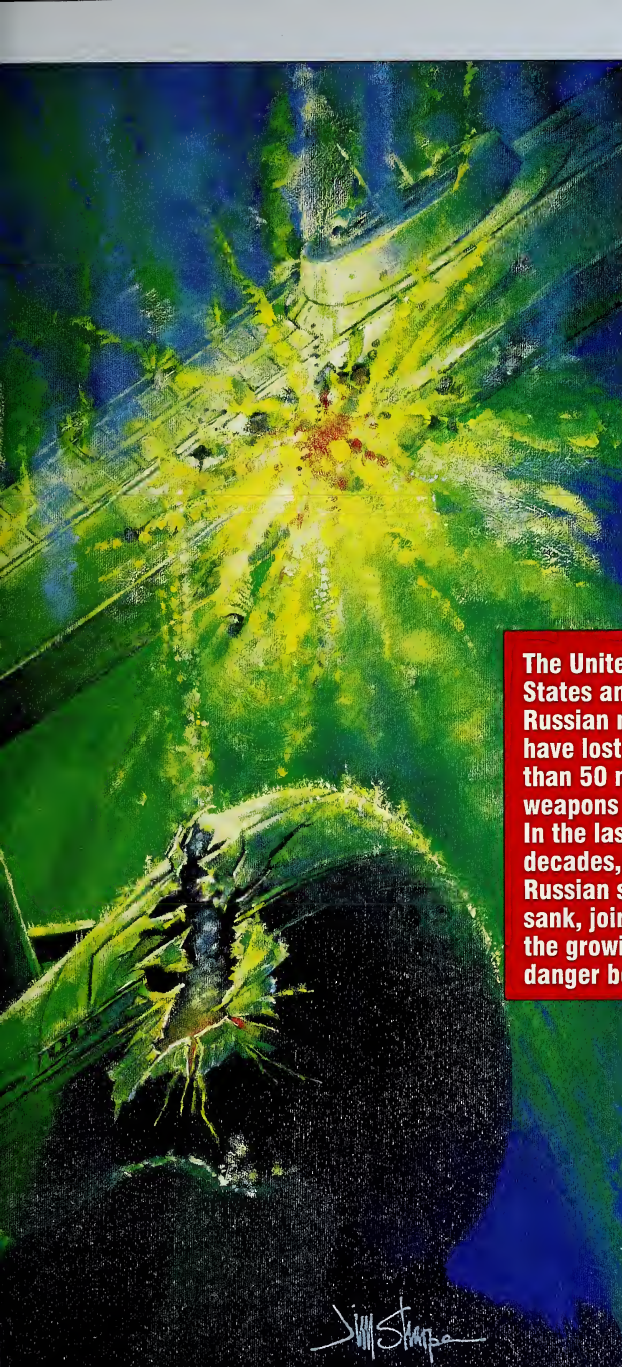
The force of the blast had pried open the sub's outer torpedo doors. And inside those doors lay a pair of damaged nuclear torpedoes.

Naval experts have come to regard the sinking of the *Komsomolets* as a red flag and a stern warning: More Soviet nuclear subs might be time bombs, and the clock is relentlessly ticking. There are some 240 subs in the service of the navies of the former Soviet Union, 109 of which are operational—but not necessarily seaworthy.

Russian submarines are considered accident-prone because their crews are poorly trained, and today's Russia lacks the money and resources to perform the routine maintenance required for their



CRIMSON TIDE—A Soviet nuclear sub carrying ballistic missiles burns and sinks 600 miles from Bermuda. There's no contamination—yet.



The United States and Russian navies have lost more than 50 nuclear weapons at sea. In the last few decades, five Russian subs sank, joining the growing danger below.

safe undersea operation.

"Many Russian subs are being operated by underqualified crews and are often in such deteriorated condition that they could either explode or sink," says Kay van der Horst, director of defense and national security policy for the International Center for Technology Assessment (CTA) and Executive Director of the Bellona USA Foundation.

Even more chilling, the Russians have often taken risks with technology, leaping forward without a lot of safety precautions, according to van der Horst.

This in turn might be because the Soviet military system historically has put a lesser value on human life than does the American military. The Russian Navy ends up putting things to sea that might be highly imaginative but would never leave U.S. shipyards without extensive safety trials.

And the results of this technological recklessness have sometimes been horrific for those aboard. "After a reactor core meltdown on one of their subs, the

Russians found the crew spread on the interior of the sub like margarine," says Joshua Handler, disarmament coordinator for Greenpeace.

Unfortunately, the grim consequences are not limited to those aboard the sub itself. "Many submarines of the Russian Navy are floating Chernobyls and environmental nightmares," according to Alexi Yablokov, chairman of the Russian Ecological Safety Commission and an advisor to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Less subtle is the *International Military Review*, which refers to Soviet submarines as "radioactive death traps."

Today, almost eight years after the latest Russian naval misadventure, scientists and nuclear experts are assessing just how dangerous the sunken *Komsomolets* really is.

According to Norman Polmar, former editor of the U.S. sections of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, the principal environmental threat is from the leaking warheads, not the reactors themselves. (Polmar notes that most submarines that have had accidents at sea were able to shut down their reactors before they sank.)

"The radiation leak...is not grave



GLOW BELOW—
The Russian sub *Komsomolets*—a Mike-class vessel like this, sank and took 42 of its crew with it. Radiation today seeps from its nuclear weapons.

DEEP TROUBLE

yet," he says. "But if the rate of deterioration they expect to happen, happens at that rate, in a few years there will be a major problem."

Corroboration comes from no less an authority than the man who designed the Russian ship, Igor Dimitrivich Spassky. In an interview with the U.S. Naval Institute, Spassky explained that "within in a decade, the two nuclear warheads [on the torpedoes] will be fully corroded by an electrochemical reaction involving salt water...and the highly toxic plutonium will escape from the damaged torpedoes and into the environment."

Reporting on the disaster, *The European* describes the situation now facing environmentalists as "a race against time before [the ship] leaks deadly radiation into one of Europe's richest fishing grounds."

Or as CTA's van der Horst puts it, "Sooner or later, this radioactive contamination in going to wind up on our dinner plates."

Certainly if the *Komsomolets* was vulnerable to such an accident, any Soviet ship would be. The submarine—

400 feet long, about the size of a U.S. Navy Los Angeles-class attack submarine—was uniquely equipped with the latest in Soviet technology.

Built of titanium, the *Komsomolets* was designed to perform at 3,280 feet, a depth much greater than most submarines. The Soviets had planned to use her and her secret technical innovations for "a variety of scientific and technical tasks."

Scientific debate about the precise degree of danger posed by the *Komsomolets* takes on added meaning when you consider that the Mike-class sub is hardly the only nuclear-equipped Russian boat that has sunk after explosions or other accidents at sea.

1986: A fire and explosion in the liquid fuel of a ballistic missile aboard a Soviet Yankee I-class nuclear-powered sub causes it to sink; it is ultimately lost. Its 16 SS-N-6 missiles with two warheads each and two nuclear torpedoes lurk at the ocean's bottom, 600 miles northeast of

Bermuda.

1970: The Soviets lose a November-class nuclear-powered attack submarine—containing two nuclear reactors and two torpedoes topped with nuclear warheads—about 400 nautical miles northwest of Spain.

1968: The USSR loses a Golf 2-class diesel-powered sub, with two nuclear torpedoes, in the Pacific. The sub sinks about 750 miles northwest of the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

Consider that, all told, aboard the above subs were a total of 43 nuclear warheads. (Interestingly, the Central Intelligence Agency scored a major intelligence victory in 1974 by retrieving two nuclear warheads from the Golf-2 sub in a covert undersea operation.)

What's more, aside from these actual sinkings and losses, experts say there have been other occasions—close calls—in which Russian subs suffered nuclear accidents but managed to remain afloat. According to Joshua Handler, disarmament coordinator for Greenpeace, "the Russians have had three nuclear subs sink, four meltdowns and four near-meltdowns in the last five years."

In total, five nuclear submarines lie in the depths of the ocean, raising concerns about radioactive contamination.

SCIENTISTS continue to debate how to keep environmental damage from the subs to a minimum.

In the case of the *Komsomolets*, a salvage effort failed to raise the sub in the late '80s and two attempts to use sealant to stop the leaking radiation also failed.

"Sub accidents that result in leaking radiation into the ocean are not a good thing, but we really don't yet know the consequences," says David Kadko, associate professor of marine atmospheric chemistry at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. "The ocean has a tremendous capacity for healing itself."

Even the U.S. Navy, which maintains its subs and has well-trained crews, has lost two subs to accidents: the nuclear-powered *USS Thresher* in April 1963 and the *USS Scorpion* in May 1968.

Ultimately, the question of safety aboard nuclear submarines begs the question: How can these disasters be prevented entirely? Experts say there is no way to completely put an end to nuclear accidents aboard submarines, but certainly the Russians could be less reckless with what they put to sea.

"The Soviets had mastered how to make their submarines sink, but have occasionally neglected the details necessary to allow them to come back up," quips CTA's van der Horst. □

"The radiation leak is not grave yet. But if the rate of deterioration they expect to happen, happens at that rate, in a few years there will be a major problem."

—Norman Polmar on the *Komsomolets*

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underlying problems associated with disorders of BPH – safely and effectively. These results have been published



in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* and the *American Journal of Gerontology*. They reveal that several vitamins, minerals and natural herbs can dramatically shrink the prostate and improve urinary performance in older men.

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HOT ISSUE—The campaign for a flag-protection amendment sparks strong support among members of The American Legion family.



FROM THE HEART—More than 6,500 crowd in morning Patriotic Memorial Service.

REPORT FROM SALT LAKE CITY

Still Serving America!

Legionnaires hear from two presidential candidates and reaffirm their commitment to expand veterans' health care and to protect Old Glory.

AMERICA needs to return to the fundamental values that made the nation great... Veterans deserve the best medical care possible, and the VA system must respond to all of their needs... Congress must pass a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag and give the states the opportunity to ratify the measure... The federal government should pull tighter rein on "reckless" spending programs....

Welcome to the 1996 presidential



campaign trail, which took the off ramp to the 78th American Legion National Convention in Salt Lake City, Aug. 30-Sept. 5. The above messages were among those delivered by Bob Dole and Ross Perot as they blazed into the high desert Utah capital with their bids for the Oval Office. Conspicuously absent was President Bill Clinton, who declined a request to address the convention, citing scheduling problems.

"Obviously it's a great disappointment to us," said National Commander Daniel A. Ludwig, speaking to reporters at a news conference in the



NEXT QUESTION—Nat'l. Cmdr. Ludwig briefs local reporters on the Legion's GI Bill of Health proposal.

Salt Palace Convention Center.

"We have a tradition of presidential candidates appearing at national conventions," said Ludwig, reminding the local media of Clinton's appearance at the Legion's 1992 National Convention in Chicago. "Our members value what candidates have to say." And values constituted the core message of Clinton's main challenger.



the Mormon Tabernacle for the Sunday



WELCOME—Utah Legionnaires roll out the red carpet for their fellow Legionnaires in Salt Lake City as they did for the 1984 National Convention.

"Family, God, honor, duty and country," said Dole, the Republican Party nominee and former Senate majority leader, speaking before more than 6,000 Legion delegates and visitors on the opening day of the convention's plenary sessions. "Let's face it—some ridicule these principles as relics of the past, but when our problems are at their worst, when our hope is strained, when drugs and crime and the

abandonment of children challenge the very character of our country, we know where to turn.

"There is no bridge to the future not built on the foundation of these ideals," added Dole, taking an indirect jab at the bridge-building slogan that Clinton pegged his speech to at the Democratic National Convention.

A member of Post 99, Russell, Kan., Dole donned his blue Legion cap

before walking on stage, and was greeted by a standing ovation. Dole encouraged Legionnaires not to give up the fight for a flag-protection amendment, which he cosponsored in the Senate in 1995. The measure was defeated in that chamber last December by three votes.

Dole, a combat-disabled veteran of World War II, pledged his support of the Legion-proposed GI Bill of Health, which was introduced in the House late



HEAVENLY CHORUS—The world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir perform at the interdenominational service.



HERO'S WELCOME—CFA Chairman Patrick Brady was a guest of Dan and Mary Ludwig at the Nat'l. Cmdr.'s Banquet.



DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN—Miss. Rep. Sonny Montgomery is presented with the prestigious Distinguished Service Medal for his long-time commitment to veterans.



SOARING TO SALT LAKE—From left, accepting first-place Department recruiting honors in the Crystal Eagle Award contest: John Dunlap, Idaho; James Phillips, Ariz.; Gerald Wenditz and Daniel Dellinger, Va.; Leonard Overmyer, Mich.; Thomas Henderson, Ind.; Ronald Pospichal and Ed Knight, Del.; and M&PA Committee Chairman Roger Tingler.



LAURELS—Mormon Church President Gordon B. Hinckley, right, receives the Past Department Commanders Club's "Good Guy" Award. From left, N.Y. Adjutant Dick Pedro, Ludwig, and PNC John P. "Jake" Comer.



PRESS-TIGIOUS—James Crimmins, left, of High Roads Productions accepts the Legion's Fourth Estate Award from Ludwig and PR Commission Chairman Robert Morrill.

last summer. The revolutionary plan would extend VA medical care to all veterans and their families and would allow the system to collect and retain money from other federal programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPUS and Tri-Care and from third-party insurers.

Convention delegates later would reaffirm their support for the GI Bill of Health by adopting **Resolution 141** (VA&R).

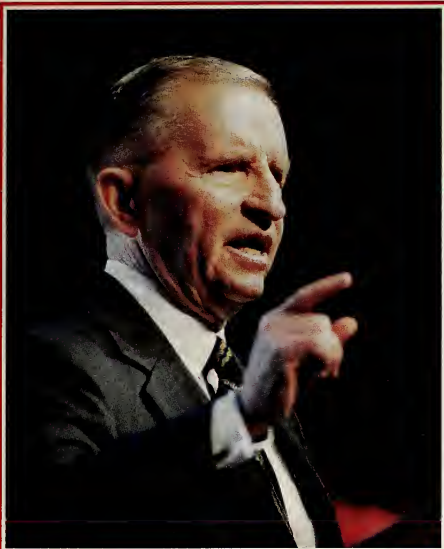
It was one of 164 resolutions adopted by delegates during the three-day plenary sessions of The American Legion (see resolutions, page 46).

On the eve of Dole's appearance, President Clinton had ordered a missile strike against Iraq in retaliation for that nation's bloody operations against Kurds in northern Iraq.

Dole, who was briefed on the situation by the president, said he agreed with the U.S. response but reminded Legionnaires the White House must never send troops into harm's way needlessly.

For billionaire Ross Perot, the Reform Party candidate for president, the nation's commander-in-chief must ask himself a more personal question before committing troops: Is he willing to send his own children into combat. Perot, a Navy veteran, said there are other costs the nation should bear when its troops go to war.

"I feel very strongly that anytime we have troops in combat, everybody in this country should make sacrifices," Perot said. "The only sacrifice I can



H. ROSS PEROT
PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL

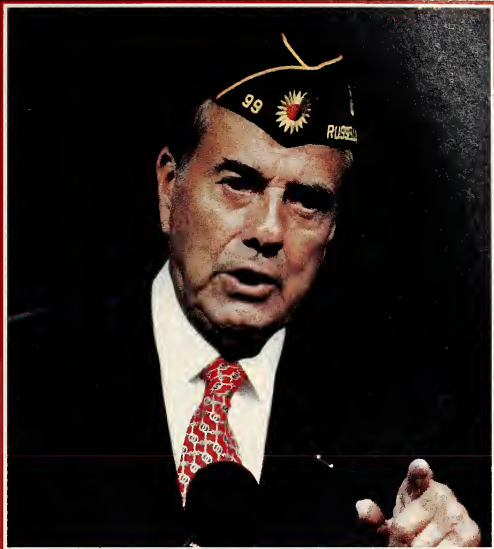
"I feel very strongly that anytime we have troops in combat, everybody in this country should make sacrifices."

think of is that every American civilian should pay a war tax, and if they aren't willing to pay the war tax, then they can join the armed forces."

Perot promised that his administration would never allow troops to fight under a foreign command and that the veterans' medical system would

become the model for national health care. He said he would conduct an audit of each VA hospital, asking patients to evaluate the services provided.

The fiery Texan also had some harsh words about the state of the nation's economy. After flashing graphs and



ROBERT DOLE
PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL

"Family, God, honor, duty and country. Let's face it—some ridicule these principles as relics of the past."

charts on large projection screens, Perot asked Legionnaires, "Why do we allow these financial problems to occur? Who is responsible for this mess? Neither the Democrats or Republicans accept responsibility, but they blame each other. The fact is both parties are responsible for it!"



GERALD SOLOMON
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The New York congressman was presented with The American Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award for his leadership on national issues.



ORRIN HATCH
U.S. SENATE

"In the 105th Congress, we will reverse the (Senate) vote from a year ago."

BATTLING FOR THE FLAG

Campaign rhetoric aside, Ludwig spelled out the issues looming before the Legion and the nation in his report to delegates. He said that challenges such as the GI Bill of Health, maintaining a strong military and the ongoing battle to protect children from the scourge of drugs and abuse are among the highest national priorities. So is pursuing the flag-protection amendment.

"Legionnaires support what's right with America," said Ludwig, a Navy Vietnam War veteran from Red Wing, Minn. "I am talking about a tug-of-war for America's future, a conflict being waged on many fronts. I want you to know you are tugging in the right direction. Your strong hands on the rope are essential."

And a majority of Americans are pulling with Legionnaires for another priority—securing a constitutional amendment to protect Old Glory from acts of physical desecration. So said retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady, chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance (CFA), the group spearheading the quest for the amendment.

BRADY, a Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War, recounted his visit to a controversial exhibit at the Phoenix Art Museum earlier this year, *Old Glory: The American Flag in Contemporary Art*. What Brady found was not so glorious. Among the works was a flag stuffed in a toilet and another one lying on the floor. Visitors were encouraged to walk across it.

"The saddest thing I saw in the museum was the faces of our youths as they tried to untangle what they said in the Pledge of Allegiance and what their parents taught them with what they saw in the toilet and on the dirty floor of the museum," Brady said, who detailed the CFA's nationwide *Vote For The Flag* and non-partisan *Get-Out-The-Vote* campaigns.

Most Legion family members sported buttons and stickers promoting the flag amendment and the *Vote For The Flag* campaign. Workers at a CFA booth in the convention center's exhibit hall also distributed petition forms and other materials to be used in the latest phase of the flag-protection campaign.

One of the men who walked point for the amendment in the Senate last year urged Legionnaires and other amendment supporters to not give up



SPIRIT OF '96—A local high school marching band plays patriotic music as the National Convention parade gets under way.



WINGING IT—NRA's "Eddie Eagle" gun-safety mascot was a special hit with young spectators.



A FEW GOOD MEN—Marine Reserve tankers and other military units rumble down Salt Lake City's streets.



ON TRACK—Members of Indiana Menzie-Reece Post 258 roll into action with their wheeled locomotive.



MASSING OF FLAGS—Hundreds of Legion family members proudly hoist Old Glory and form the parade's vanguard.



BAND ON THE MARCH—N.Y.'s Band of the Tonawandas was the first-place winner in the National Convention Band Contest.



LOCAL PRIDE—Salt Lake children show their enthusiasm as the last of the 85-unit parade passes in review.



VICTORY—Missouri's Joseph Frank reacts after the unanimous ballot is cast electing him National Commander.



SOLEMN WORDS—PNC John Geiger administers the oath of office to Frank, a Vietnam War Army veteran.



FAMILY—Looking on as Frank takes the oath are, (from left): wife, Barbara; mother, Delores; and daughter and son-in-law, Mary Kay and Dodd Grantham, and their children, Hayley and Ashlie

the fight. "Some have confused liberty with license, but The American Legion and American people know the difference," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "In the 105th Congress, we will reverse the (Senate) vote from a year ago."

Hatch, who led the debate last December in the Senate, placed the blame for the amendment's defeat at the door of the White House. He claimed that Clinton lobbied his fellow Democrats, many of whom were considered critical swing votes, to reject the amendment proposal.

Delegates reaffirmed their support for Old Glory by adopting **Resolution 1** (Americanism), supporting a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration.

The most obvious expression of Legionnaires' sentiments for Old Glory unfurled on Salt Lake City's streets the weekend before the convention's general sessions. Beneath a cloudless sky and a blazing sun, members of the Legion family stepped off for the annual convention parade. Leading the march were hundreds of Legionnaires, members of the Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, Scout units and Junior ROTC units, all proudly bearing flags which snapped in the late afternoon breeze.

As the parade made its way along the route most spectators snapped salutes and came to attention, evidence that Legionnaires are not alone in their respect and love for Old Glory and all it represents. Two blocks from



HEADS UP—Barbara Frank places the red cap of the Legion's top officer on her husband's head.



POINT MAN—The newly elected commander urges his fellow Legionnaires to be strong advocates for the GI Bill of Health.

the reviewing stand, a group of leather-clad teens—some sporting spike and buzz haircuts—rose from the sidewalk to cheer. A rag-clad elderly woman paused from her search for aluminum cans and placed her right hand over her heart.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

The future of the veterans' medical system was foremost in the minds of Legionnaires who traveled to Salt Lake City, and they believe the bridge to that future lies with passage of the Legion-proposed GI Bill of Health. Observed National Commander Ludwig: "This innovative plan will open VA hospitals and clinics to more veterans, remove senseless restrictions that increase the cost to taxpayer, and provide our veterans with the best medical care in the world (see page 26 for our continuing series on the GI Bill of Health).

While not directly addressing the GI Bill of Health, VA Secretary Jesse Brown echoed support for some of the provisions of plan. Brown, a Virginia Legionnaire, touted the department's pilot program of reimbursing the VA from federal programs such as Medicare for care given to veterans. The test program currently is under way at select VA hospitals.

Brown also called on Legionnaires to help the VA locate veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation in tests conducted decades ago. The Department of Defense recently revealed it had found the records of more than 7,000 troops who might now be suffering from nasal passage

problems related to the tests. These veterans might be eligible for disability compensation.

"Putting veterans first is more than a slogan," said Brown, who outlined the administration's assistance to veterans. "It's a mission we have followed and, as a result, the VA is more responsive to the needs of veterans than what it was four years ago."

But not all share that enthusiasm for what the Clinton White House has done for veterans. Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., a member of Post 81, Monticello, Ind., said much of Brown's remarks were politically charged and

without substance.

"Secretary Brown told you a little while ago the administration seeks \$1 billion more for VA medical spending. Remember—this is an election season and you cannot ignore this fact," said Buyer, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

One long-time lawmaker who isn't seeking reelection this year was not ignored for his advocacy for veterans and their benefits. Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., was presented with the 1996 American Legion Distinguished Service Award.

"Outstanding service to our nation



PARTNERS—1996-97 National Auxiliary President Phyllis Bachman joins Frank at center stage following his acceptance speech.



COMMANDER'S CORPS—Nat'l Vice Cmdrs. elected to serve with Nat'l. Cmdr. Frank this year are, from left, Roger Wild, Bob Bowen, Orland Taylor, Albert Robotti and Wilson Timmons.



ELECTRONIC SURFING—A booth in the Exhibit Hall shows delegates and visitors the Legion's internet home page.



GRAND SLAM—Nat'l. Vice Cmdr. Keith Baker, right, accepts a check from Buick sales manager Larry Hice for American Legion Baseball.

is the main criterion for this award and The American Legion certainly finds your lifelong work meets—and exceeds—that objective,” said Ludwig in presenting the award to Montgomery, who has earned the name “Mr. Veteran” among his colleagues.

Montgomery, a Legion member of Post 21, Meridian, Miss., said one of the highlights of his service was helping elevate the VA to cabinet level status. “Now veterans can go in the front door of the White House with their issues, not the back door,” said Montgomery, who served as chairman of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee for nearly half of his 30-year congressional career.

The Mississippi congressman lauded the Legion’s GI Bill of Health proposal and urged them to keep up the fight for the plan, as well as other key

veterans’ issues (*An in-depth interview with Montgomery is scheduled to appear in the December issue of this magazine*).

OUR COMMON DEFENSE

America’s service members should never go into harm’s way serving under a foreign flag or taking orders from commanders of other nations. These are among the reasons why Rep. James Longley, R-Maine, has introduced the Armed Forces Protection Act.

Longley, a member of Post 78, Lewiston, Maine, outlined his plan for the convention. In addition to restricting U.S. troop deployments in multinational military operations, the plan also would protect the health care benefits of active-duty personnel.

“This bill would ensure that they

will never wear a U.N. insignia or a foreign nation’s patch,” said Longley, a Marine Corps reservist who served in the Persian Gulf War. The Maine lawmaker described in detail the combat deaths of U.S. Army rangers in a firefight in Mogadishu, Somalia—casualties he said were the result of muddled orders from a labyrinthian U.N. chain-of-command.

Longley said protecting the military health care system also is something his colleagues on Capitol Hill need to bear in mind when passing legislation. He suggested that cuts in such services might be linked to the dwindling number of lawmakers who are veterans.

“I am not saying it’s essential to have worn a military uniform in order to serve in Congress, but it’s not a bad place to start,” he said.

Legionnaires also were briefed on



IN REMEMBRANCE—Nat'l. Security Commission Chmn. Allen Titus, left, and Nat'l. Foreign Relations Comm. Chairman Curtis Twete drape the POW-MIA flag over an empty chair.



STRONG SAILING—Rear Adm. John Shipway briefs delegates on the Navy’s global strategic missions and the grim task of recovering TWA Flight 800.

the Navy's missions at home and on the global seas. Rear Adm. John F. Shipway, deputy commander for submarines and commander of naval and undersea warfare, said while the number of ships has decreased in recent years from 600 to 361, active vessels are state of the art with unmatched capability.

"More impressive is that more than 50 percent of the ships at sea are deployed, which means they will be away from their home ports and their loved ones for up to six months," said Shipway, a member of New York Post 1360. "Your Navy is in the oceans and seas around the world: the Atlantic, the Pacific and Indian oceans. They are in the Mediterranean and in the Adriatic—the latter of which to provide support to Bosnia."

Shipway also briefed delegates about the Navy's role in the recovery of TWA's ill-fated Flight 800, which exploded off the coast of New York State last July. The Navy committed nearly 700 diving and salvage experts to assist in the recovery of the debris. More than 240 people were killed in the incident, which, at press time, was still under investigation.

"Your Navy has brought to the surface more than 60 percent of the Boeing 747 for investigation," he said. "Our divers have performed a difficult and heartbreaking task with professionalism."

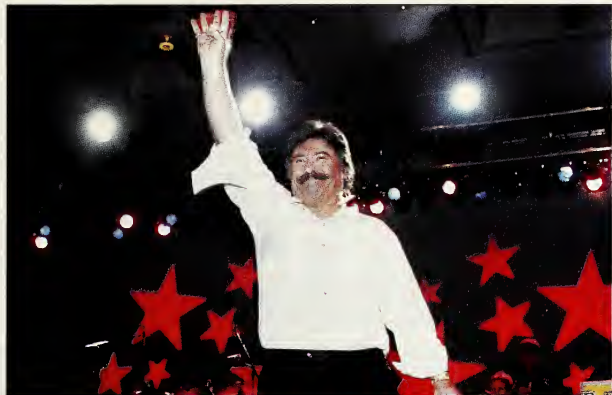
THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

Legion awards and other honors were rendered to individuals and Legion Departments and Posts during the convention. Among the award winners:

- Recruiter of the Year—Joe Chilelli, Post 790, California
- Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss.—American Legion Distinguished Service Award
- Frank N. Belgrano Jr. Trophy (Americanism)—Department of Florida
- Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy (Americanism)—Department of Florida
- William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy (Americanism)—Department of Virginia
- Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion—presented to National Commander Ludwig by Dante Mattioni, chairman of the Chapel of Four Chaplains
- Employer of the Year Awards



TAKE FOUR—Nat'l. Cmdr. Ludwig, his wife, Mary, and their children, John and Ann, pose for well-wishing photohounds during a break from convention business.



YELLOW RIBBON SALUTE—Singer Tony Orlando, who performed on the opening day of plenary sessions, thanks an appreciative audience of Legionnaires.

(Economic)—Audit Security Bags Inc., West Lebanon, N.H.; Green Mountain Rifle Barrel Co., Conway, N.H.; Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Topeka, Kan.

- Garland Murphy Award (Children & Youth)—Department of Ohio
- American Legion Fourth Estate Award—High Roads Productions
- Color Guard Competition (1st place winners)—Senior Color Guard (Military Class-American Legion), Speedway, Ind., Post 500 Honor Guard; Senior Color Guard (Military Class-Open), Pure Heaven Color Guard, Post 37, Iowa; Senior Color

Guard (Open Class), Copper Knights, Post 36, Ariz.

- Band Contest (1st place)—The Band of the Tonawandas, Post 264, N.Y.
- William F. Lenker National Service Trophy—Department of Ohio.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The final commission report was filed and the last of the resolutions were voted upon as Daniel A. Ludwig slowly approached the microphone to deliver his last words as National Commander to his fellow Legionnaires. "Thank you so much for mak-



TUXEDO JUNCTION—Legionnaires spend some of an enchanted evening dancing to and enjoying the music of Tony Orlando.



RECESSIONAL—The honor guard of Indiana Post 500 retires the colors.

ing a dream come alive," Ludwig said, his voice echoing throughout the cavernous convention hall.

Past National Commanders John H. Geiger of Illinois and Daniel F. Foley of Minnesota presented Ludwig with a plaque and colors of the Legion's highest office. A clap of thunder brought some levity to the occasion, after Ludwig in a quiet, emotional voice expressed his gratitude for having the opportunity to serve. With his wife, Mary, and their two children, John and Ann, at his side, the Red Wing, Minn., resident called the convention to order for one

final act of business—electing a new National Commander for 1996-97.

The roll call of Departments resulted in only one nomination, and it was clear who Ludwig's successor would be. A high school marching band strutted onto the convention floor, leading a contingent of yellow-shirted demonstrators carrying placards that read: "Go With Joe."

By unanimous choice, Joseph J. Frank, Crestwood, Mo., was elected National Commander by delegates. A combat-disabled veteran of the Vietnam War, Frank rolled his wheelchair to the front of the stage and flashed a "thumbs-up" and a broad grin to his fellow Legionnaires.

Frank, 49, enumerated the challenges before the Legion, ranging from the continued push for a flag-protection amendment to improving veterans' health care. But the success of any Legion program hinges on an active, growing membership.

"Together, we must make this membership year the best it has ever been," said Frank. "One way to build our great Legion is the old-fashioned way—one Legionnaire at a time. Many of us were mentored along the way as I was. I urge each of you, when you return to your home Posts, to take a younger veteran under your wing and show him or her the ropes."

Convention delegates also elected the following National Vice Commanders: Orland Taylor, Aiea, Hawaii; Robert L. Bowen, Woodbridge, Va.; Albert M. Robotti, Rocky Hill, N.J.;

Roger L. Wild, Lincoln, Neb.; and Wilson R. Timmons, Astor, Fla.

Appointed to serve in 1996-97: Charles Richmond, Edmond, Okla., National Chaplain; Barbara P. Stuvengen, National Historian, Orfordville, Wis.; Robert C. Horenkamp, Florissant, Mo., National Sergeant-at-Arms; Robert Boxdorfer, St. Louis, Aide to the National Commander. Reappointed were: National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle (Department of Michigan), National Treasurer Webber LaGrange (Indiana), and National Judge Advocate Philip B. Onderdonk (Maryland). □

—Joe Stuteville



BIG DOG—McGruff, a spokesmutt for the Safe Kids effort, puts in a duty day at the convention.



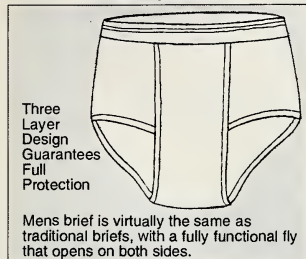
GO WITH JOE—The convention's election of a National Commander rekindles The American Legion's enthusiasm.

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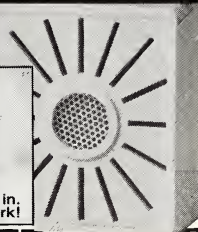
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78th NATIONAL CONVENTION ADOPTS 164 RESOLUTIONS

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AMERICANISM

Joseph E. Cawotte Jr. (New Hampshire), Chairman

- Res. No. 1 Support a Constitutional Amendment to Protect the American Flag from Physical Desecration
- Res. No. 94* Encourage all Americans to fly the POW/MIA flag until all Missing Service Personnel are Accounted For
- Res. No. 261 American Legion Policy on Illegal Aliens
- Res. No. 262 Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to Allow Selected Non-citizen Veterans Who Served on Active Duty with the U.S. Armed Forces to Seek Naturalization or Admission to the United States
- Res. No. 263 Oppose Legislation Allowing Conscientious Objectors Any Incentive Concerning Military Spending
- Res. No. 264 Oppose a Constitutional Convention
- Res. No. 265 Support as a Requirement that English Be Used in All Citizenship Naturalization Ceremonies
- Res. No. 267 Strengthen and Support the Internal Security of the United States
- Res. No. 268 Support School Prayer
- Res. No. 269 Support Commencement of Both the House and Senate Chambers of the United States' Congress with Proper Recognition of the American Flag
- Res. No. 270 Support Restoration of Official Days of Observance for Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day and Columbus Day with a Special Observance on Memorial Day for Fallen Servicemen
- Res. No. 271 Oppose Any Changes to the Words or Music of the National Anthem and Establish a Day of Patriotic Observance for Same
- Res. No. 272 Support Efforts to Posthumously Award the Congressional Medal of Honor to the Four Chaplains Who Died During World War II
- Res. No. 273 Support Re-opening the Period for Filing Naturalization Applications Under the Immigration Reform Act of 1990
- Res. No. 296 Support Selected Modifications to the United States Flag Code, Title 36, Chapter 10
- Res. No. 297 Support Legislation to Prohibit the Importation of Foreign Made United States Flags
- Res. No. 298 Support Immigration Reform
- Res. No. 299 Support Legislation as the Official Language of the United States

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Elmer Fuhrop (Ohio), Chairman

- Res. No. 274 Support National Family Week as an Annual observance
- Res. No. 275 Support the Retention of the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJDP) and its Programs
- Res. No. 276 Support Strengthening and Enforcing Penalties for Individuals Involving Child Pornography
- Res. No. 277 Support Adequate Funding for Prevention of Drug Trafficking
- Res. No. 278 Amend Immigration and Nationality Act to Provide Equal Treatment in Admission of All Children of United States Citizens
- Res. No. 279 Support Funding to Continue and Enhance Children's Immunization Program
- Res. No. 280 The American Legion Policy Opposing Production, Sale and/or Distribution of Obscene Literature
- Res. No. 281 Support Appropriate Funding for School Nutrition Programs
- Res. No. 282 Support Pro-active Juvenile Delinquency in the Schools Through Programs to Eliminate Violence and Vandalism
- Res. No. 283 Support Expansion of Funding Assistance to Families Providing Care to Children with Catastrophic Illnesses

ECONOMIC

Ray G. Smith (North Carolina), Chairman

- Res. No. 39 Continue Funding for Employment Assistance Entitlements
- Res. No. 48 Support the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)
- Res. No. 53 Support the Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Res. No. 56 Support Veterans' Businesses Affected by Base Closures
- Res. No. 116 Support Efforts to Increase and Improve Federal Assistance to America's Veterans Enterprises
- Res. No. 117 Support Reversion of VETS
- Res. No. 118 Support Increases to Title V-C of Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA)
- Res. No. 119 Support Funding for VETS
- Res. No. 120 Support Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemen's (UCX) Benefits for Recently Separated Veterans
- Res. No. 122 Support Priority of Service in Department of Labor Programs
- Res. No. 123 Amend the IRS Code for Qualified Veteran Definition
- Res. No. 126 Support State Employment Service Agencies
- Res. No. 127 Support Veterans' Affirmative Action for Federal Contractors
- Res. No. 130 Support Acquisition of Federal Surplus Property
- Res. No. 131 Oppose Transfer of VETS to DoD
- Res. No. 133 Support National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI)
- Res. No. 141 Maintain a Strong Veterans' Preference
- Res. No. 237 Support Veterans' Preference for Persian Gulf War Veterans

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Curtis O. Twete (North Dakota), Chairman

- Res. No. 8 The American Legion Policy on North Korea
- Res. No. 9 The American Legion Policy on the Republic of China
- Res. No. 10* Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China
- Res. No. 67 Support for South Vietnamese Commandos
- Res. No. 79 Support Authorization for Funds for Vietnam
- Res. No. 88 Support NATO Expansion
- Res. No. 144 Oppose Foreign Contracting of U.S. Troops

- Res. No. 182 The American Legion Policy on Panama Canal
- Res. No. 183 The American Legion Policy on America's Future
- Res. No. 184 The American Legion Policy on Principles of U.S. Foreign Policy
- Res. No. 185 Support NATO
- Res. No. 186 The American Legion Policy on Central America
- Res. No. 187 Support Reform of the United Nations
- Res. No. 189 Oppose Nuclear Proliferation
- Res. No. 190 The American Legion Policy on Iran
- Res. No. 192 Support War on Drugs in Latin America
- Res. No. 193 Oppose Cuba's Role in International Drug Trafficking
- Res. No. 194 Support U.S. Participation in Enterprise for The Americas Initiative
- Res. No. 196 The American Legion Policy on Cuba
- Res. No. 197 The American Legion Policy on Haiti
- Res. No. 202 The American Legion Policy on the Panama Canal Treaties
- Res. No. 203 The American Legion Policy on Mexico
- Res. No. 249 The American Legion Policy on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- Res. No. 286 Support Relations with the Former Soviet Union
- Res. No. 287 Support Relations with Eastern Europe
- Res. No. 288 Oppose International Lending Agencies without POW/MIA Cooperation
- Res. No. 289 The American Legion Policy Regarding World War I, Cold War and Korean POW/MIA's
- Res. No. 290 Support the Missing Service-Persons Act of 1996
- Res. No. 291 The American Legion Policy on Activities Relating to South-east Asia POW/MIA's
- Res. No. 292 Support Lobbying Reform
- Res. No. 293 Support Priority POW/MIA Actions
- Res. No. 294 The American Legion Policy for the Middle East

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Herman Harrington (New York), Chairman

- Res. No. 76* Medal of Honor Commemorative Postage Stamp
- Res. No. 207* USS Arizona Military Honor Guard
- Res. No. 224* "Old Ironsides" Pennies Campaign
- Res. No. 256 Support Increase in Volunteer Mileage Income Tax Deduction
- Res. No. 257 Amend IRS Code Section 501(c)(19) to Clarify the American Legion's Components Tax Classification
- Res. No. 258** Legal Immunity for Volunteers
- Res. No. 259 Support the Display of the Enola Gay
- Res. No. 260* Support Audit Murphy Postage Stamp

NATIONAL SECURITY

Allen L. Titus (Indiana), Chairman

- Res. No. 3 The American Legion Policy on Total Force Policy and Viable National Guard and Reserve Forces
- Res. No. 5 Support the Selective Service System
- Res. No. 8 Support Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and Disability Compensation
- Res. No. 28 Support National Space Program
- Res. No. 29 Support Aerospace Production and Research
- Res. No. 30 Support the Funding and Acceleration of Military Air and Sea Lift
- Res. No. 31 Support Funding for the U.S. Air Force
- Res. No. 62 Support the Exclusion of Death Gratuity Pay From Declared Income
- Res. No. 81* Enforcement of Existing Criminal Laws on Firearms
- Res. No. 104* Maintain the Military Strength of the Armed Forces
- Res. No. 109 Support Domestic Energy Production
- Res. No. 110 Support Oil and Gas Leasing System
- Res. No. 111 Support Curtailment of Additional Wildlife Areas
- Res. No. 112 Support Oil Exploration on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Res. No. 113 Support Cooperation Between Government and Industry Regarding Nuclear Energy & Waste
- Res. No. 145* Department Law and Order Committees and Their Recognition of Law Enforcement Officials
- Res. No. 151 Support Respecting the Case Concerning the Controversial Sinking of the USS Indianapolis
- Res. No. 155* Explaining the Honorable Nature of Military Service
- Res. No. 156 The American Legion Policy on U.S. Forces in Peacekeeping Operations, including Treatment of Captured Americans
- Res. No. 157 Support America's Defense Industrial Base
- Res. No. 158 Oppose Foreign Investments in American Defense Industries
- Res. No. 159 Support Revising the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
- Res. No. 160 Support Theater Missile Defense Systems
- Res. No. 161 Support ROTC Programs
- Res. No. 162 Support Retention of the Uniformed Services University of Health Services
- Res. No. 163 Support Retention of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service
- Res. No. 164 Support Funding for the National Guard
- Res. No. 165 Support Rebuilding the Merchant Marine
- Res. No. 166 Support the Maritime Security Act
- Res. No. 167 Support the Establishment of the Military Oath as a Backup System to the All-Volunteer Forces
- Res. No. 168 Support Funding for Improved Quality of Life Features for Military Personnel, Retirees and Dependents
- Res. No. 169 The American Legion Policy on DoD Health Care Reform
- Res. No. 170 Support Transition Assistance Programs
- Res. No. 171 Oppose Homosexuals Serving in the Armed Forces

- Res. No. 172 Oppose the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act
- Res. No. 173 Support Concurrent Receipt of Separation Pay and Disability Compensation
- Res. No. 174 Support Modernization of the U.S. Army
- Res. No. 175* Support Service of Women in Expanded Roles Within the Armed Forces When Proven Such an Expanded Role Will Not Affect Readiness, Cohesiveness or Deployability
- Res. No. 176 Support Modernization of the U.S. Coast Guard
- Res. No. 177 Support Modernization of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps
- Res. No. 178 Support Full Funding for Military Commissions
- Res. No. 198 The American Legion Policy on National Security Principles
- Res. No. 208* Protection of United States Military Personnel
- Res. No. 217 Support Combating Domestic Terrorism
- Res. No. 218 The American Legion Policy on Combatting Crime in America
- Res. No. 244 Support for the Second Amendment
- Res. No. 285 Support for Military-Qualified Chaplains

VETERANS' AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Chester F. Stellar (Ohio), Chairman

- Res. No. 16 Support Funding for State Veterans Homes
- Res. No. 21* Expansion of West Los Angeles National Cemetery
- Res. No. 60 Support Funding for VA Construction and Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs)
- Res. No. 68 Support Recognition of Service in Turkey and Israel during the Southeast Asian War as Gulf War service
- Res. No. 69 Support Confinement Funding for VA in the Event of Government Shutdown or a Not Yet Approved Department of Veterans' Affairs Budget
- Res. No. 82 Amend Title 10, USC, to Eliminate Time Limitations to the Discharge Review Boards Consideration
- Res. No. 83 The American Legion Policy on VA Compensation
- Res. No. 84 Support Reduced Disability Requirements for Non-service-Connected Pension Recipients
- Res. No. 85 Amend Title 38, USC, to Change Vietnam Era Service Dates for the Purpose of Veterans Benefits
- Res. No. 86 Support Legislation to Provide Equal Benefits to Naturalized Filipino Veterans
- Res. No. 98 Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, USC, Section 107, to Recognize the Status of Filipino Veterans of World War II
- Res. No. 114 Oppose the Repeal of Davenport v. Brown
- Res. No. 115 Support Legislation to Provide Benefits and Services to Children of Vietnam Veterans with Spinal Injury
- Res. No. 140 Support Education and Training Readjustment Program Enhancements for the Servicemen's GI Bill
- Res. No. 147 Support the GI Bill of Health: The American Legion's Veteran's Health Care Security Plan
- Res. No. 148 The American Legion Policy on Death Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Res. No. 149 Support Improvements of the Disability and Death Pension Program
- Res. No. 150 Support Provisions for Veterans' Dependent Children Confined to Nursing Homes for Greater Pension for Incidental Expenses
- Res. No. 178 The American Legion Policy on Gulf War Illnesses
- Res. No. 180 The American Legion Policy Regarding Depleted Uranium Munitions
- Res. No. 213 Amend Section 5121 of Title 38, USC, to Pay Accrued Benefits in Pending Claims to the Filing Date of Declassified Veterans' Claims
- Res. No. 214 The American Legion Policy on the National Cemetery System
- Res. No. 215 The American Legion Policy on Agent Orange
- Res. No. 230 Amend Section 1112, Title 38, USC, to Address Specific Conditions of Former POWs
- Res. No. 231 Amend Title 38, USC, Section 110, to Protect Disability Ratings after 10 Years
- Res. No. 232 Support Parity for VA Survivors Benefit Recipients with Those of Social Security Survivor's
- Res. No. 244 Amend Title 38, USC, Section 7103 to Review Claims of "Clear and Unmistakable Error" by the Court of Veterans' Appeals
- Res. No. 245 The American Legion Policy Concerning Ionizing Radiation Exposure
- Res. No. 247 The American Legion Policy on VA-National Security Life Insurance (NSLI)
- Res. No. 248 Oppose Centralization of VA Claims Processing Centers
- Res. No. 295 Support Establishment of a Commission to Evaluate the GI Bill of Health

Note: An asterisk denotes those resolutions not included in the Legion's legislative agenda for the 105th Congress.

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HIGHLIGHTS

A GOOD GUY

IN HIS long career with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Gordon B. Hinckley has reaped many laurels from academic, social and civic organizations. And during The American Legion National Convention in Salt Lake City, the president of the Mormon Church was presented with the prestigious Past Department Commanders Club's 1996 "Good Guy Award."

"I have received many honors over the years, but I don't recall ever being recognized for being a good guy," Hinckley said, drawing laughter from about 500 members of the club. "I wish my mother and sixth-grade teacher were here to see this."

Hinckley, who assumed the presidency of the 16-million-member Mormon Church in 1995, also was a keynote speaker at the Legion's Patriotic Memorial Service at the Mormon Tabernacle. "You have been defenders of our liberty at great cost and great sacrifice," said Hinckley.

The American Legion National Chaplain spoke about the importance of religious faith, civic responsibility and honoring the nation's war dead. "It is my prayer this service will touch you as we try to honor our nation and its heroes as best we know how with our humble efforts," said the Rev. Mr. Joseph Reynolds, speaking before more than 6,500 Legion family members at the solemn service.

The service also included music from the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir and wreath layings by Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Eight & Forty officials.

VEIN-GLORIOUS

LEGION family members rolled up their sleeves and gave the gift of life

during a special convention blood draw. Inter-Mountain Health Care Blood Services reported collecting 140 units, which were to be distributed at the Salt Lake VA Medical Center and area hospitals.

YOUNG CHAMPS

AMERICA'S future is in good hands—and the Legion's national youth champions are ready to rise to the occasion. Young leaders sharing the spotlight on the convention stages: Kem Footman, Indianapolis, Ind., 1996 American Legion Boys Nation president; Kaleen Love, Mesa, Ariz., 1996 National High School Oratorical Contest winner; Katherine M. DelGrosso, Salem, Ore., gold medalist of the 1996 Junior Shooting Sports Program; Grant E. Garrigues, San Diego, Calif., 1996 Eagle Scout of the Year; and Jason Adaro, Aiea, Hawaii, 1995 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year.

Love summed up the youth champions' sentiments about their involvement and success in American Legion programs with eloquence. "I know I have a duty to remember history and what you members of The American Legion have defended. I remember my grandfather who was stranded at sea during the war. I will remember these

is going full throttle to account for America's missing servicemen, but if you ask Carl Ford and Dino Carluccio, action by our government is stalled. "I am angry and frustrated at what our government has been telling us the last few years," said Ford, former deputy secretary of Defense for international security affairs, speaking at the convention POW/MIA forum. "What they have done is truly shameful. At best, they have misled the American people."

Carluccio, a legislative assistant to Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., said the governments of Vietnam and Laos have not provided full disclosure on the fates of missing servicemen. Smith is one of Congress' leading advocates on the POW/MIA issue.

Army Brig. Gen. James L. Campbell of the Joint Task Force Full Accounting briefed the audience on what his office is doing to resolve cases of MIAs. "We perform a complex, noble and humanitarian mission, and I am proud of the difficult work done by those in the military working to answer the critical questions about our missing service personnel," Campbell said.

ALSO ELECTED

DELEGATES to the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention elected a long-time volunteer to head the one-million-member organization during 1996-97. Phyllis Bachman, LaFargeville, N.Y., will work side-by-side with newly elected National Commander Joseph J. Frank.

Bachman, who has worked on national committees from Veterans' Affairs and Rehabilitation to Children & Youth, selected "Promoting America" as the Auxiliary's theme for the next year. "We must take the lead and cultivate patriotism and community spirit. We must teach, encourage and reward our members for the work they do," said Bachman, who is a member of New York Auxiliary Unit 1788.

Jack Jordan leads the Sons of The



HINCKLEY



REYNOLDS



LOVE



FOOTMAN



ADARO



GARRIGUES



DELGROSSO

and other things, and more so, will not let others forget."

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HIGHLIGHTS

American Legion (SAL) after his election as National Commander of that organization. Jordan, 38, Cleburne, Texas, was the delegates' choice at the 25th SAL National Convention.

"I joined SAL because I believe in veterans' rights, my country and the American flag," said Jordan. He's a member of Texas SAL Squadron 50.



BACHMAN

DEFENDING HOME

THE Cold War and massive arms buildup may be over, but that doesn't mean the United States can breathe too easily. The reality is that our country still needs a strong missile-defense system, said Navy Rear Adm. Richard D. West, deputy director for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

"Congress wants this program, the president wants this program, and America needs this program," West told a wall-to-wall crowd attending a joint session of the National Security-Foreign Relations commissions.

FLYING HIGH

WHILE members of the National Security Commission toured the facilities at Hill Air Force Base, commission chairman Allen Titus took a ride on the wild side in the back seat of an F-16 fighter jet, punching through the skies of northern Utah. At the controls was Maj. Mike Brill of the 466th Fighter Squadron, a member of Post 129 in Ogden.

"I've been on a lot of roller coasters, but they seem like trolley car rides compared to the F-16," said Titus. "It was thrilling beyond belief."

A YELLOW-RIBBON SALUTE

SINGER Tony Orlando rose to fame in the 1970s with such tunes as *Tie A Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree*. And on the opening day of business, he won new fans after finishing a

medley of patriotic tunes honoring Legionnaires and America's veterans. At one point, the entertainer left the stage and mingled with the delegates.

"When we forget our veterans, we forget our future. The true bridge to the future is to never forget our past," said Orlando, whose free Veterans Day concerts at his Branson, Mo., theater have won acclaim nationwide.

After his set was completed, the sweat-drenched Orlando stopped to shake hands with a Legionnaire behind stage, who thanked him for his support of veterans. "No way, man. Thank you for what you have done for this country," Orlando replied.

And even a stoic, steel-eyed Secret Service agent detailed to the Bob Dole campaign broke ranks from his palace guard demeanor and approached Orlando for an autograph. Orlando was willing to oblige and signed his name to a piece of paper. A witness at the scene alleges to have seen a faint smile on the agent's face.

Orlando also was the featured entertainment at the National Commander's Banquet.

THUS THEY SPAKE

A NUMBER of special guests brought greetings to convention delegates, including: Immediate Past

National Auxiliary President Syble Deshotel; Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who introduced GOP presidential nominee Bob Dole; Utah Attorney General Jan Graham; Salt Lake City Mayor DeeDee Corradini; H. Dale Brockbank, 1995-1996 Utah American Legion Department commander; William E. Christofferson, president of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Utah; and Maj. Gen. John P. Herrling, secretary of the Presidential WWII Memorial Advisory Board.

Other remarks were delivered by: A.W. Khan, Dominion president of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veter-

ans in Canada; Joseph Kobolak, Dominion president of The Royal Canadian Legion; Gen. Ting-yun Yang of the Republic of Taiwan's Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen; Gen. Tae-Wan Chang, president of the Korean Veterans Association; and John Dyer, president and chief executive officer of RxAmerica.

Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer of Massachusetts also encouraged Legionnaires to back the campaign to help restore the historic *USS Constitution*, which is moored in Boston. Brig. Gen. Wilma S. Vaught of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc., was on hand to brief delegates about the progress of the women's memorial, which is scheduled for dedication Oct. 18, 1997.

SAD FAREWELL

ON a somber note, The American Legion lost a long-time leader during the 78th National Convention. W. Calvitt Bradwell, Moncks Corner, S.C., a member of the National Finance Commission and National American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, died at a Salt Lake City hospital after an apparent heart attack.

A World War II veteran and 48-



GRAHAM



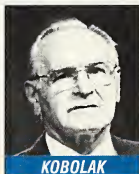
CHRISTOFFERSON



MCCAIN



COMER



KOBOLAK



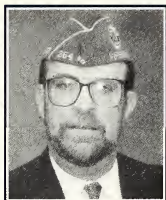
CORRADINI

year member of the Legion, Bradwell served as South Carolina's Department commander in 1975-76.

The Southern Caucus of The American Legion donated \$1,100 to the Child Welfare Foundation in memory of Bradwell. □

NATIONAL OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



Robert L. "Bob" Bowen
Woodbridge, Va.

BOB Bowen's work with the Citizens Flag Alliance won't end as he assumes his duties as a National Vice Commander. This 22-year member of The American Legion won't stop until a constitutional amendment protecting Old Glory is ratified by the states.

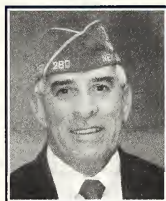
"The Legion preamble pledges us to make right the master of might. In this instance, the true masters of this country—the American people—are right, and I intend to see to it their wishes are fulfilled," says Bowen, a member of Virginia Post 364.

Aside from his CFA work, the former Marine Corps journalist has served nationally for The American Legion on the National Security Council and Foreign Relations Commission.

A dedicated family man, the 55-year-old Bowen and his wife, Helen, have eight grown children and 16 grandchildren.

Bowen will head up the Central Division, which includes Delaware, District of Columbia, France, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



Albert M. Robotti
Rocky Hill, N. J.

IN an age where many people change their careers as often as their cars, steady and persistent men like Al

Robotti stand out. After his stint in the Navy during the Korean War, Robotti worked in the field of plumbing, electrical and heating systems for 35 years.

It was that kind of dedication that led him to join The American Legion, where he has spent 41 years in various capacities. Both a Post and Department Past Commander, he has served on the National Foreign Relations Council and numerous committees.

"I became a deputy at Lyons VA Hospital and became active in The American Legion for one underlying reason: To let veterans know that they are not forgotten," the 65-year-old Robotti says.

John Basilone Post 280 in Raritan, N.J., knows Robotti well. Now everyone in the New England Region will become familiar with the man responsible for membership in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



Orland H. Taylor
Aiea, Hawaii

THIRTY years after joining the U.S. Air Force, Taylor entered a second elite group of proud Americans—The American Legion. Now he will lead the Western region as Vice Commander.

The 63-year-old member of Post 56, Mililani, Hawaii, began his Legion career in 1983. After serving in the Korean and Vietnam wars, Taylor began his rise through the Legion ranks. After completing Post service officer in 1985, he worked hard to become Department commander in 1992 before entering the company of national officers with this assignment.

"All of my years in the Legion have been exciting, but I really came

to understand what it meant to be a Legionnaire after Hurricane Iniki devastated Kauai, and The American Legion was there to help put it all back together," Taylor says.

When not busy with Legion work, Taylor remains active in the community as veterans' advisor to the Mililani Town Association Board. He's also a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He has one daughter, Van Ann Taylor.

The former military weatherman will keep a watchful eye on the skies, and another on the lookout for new members in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, the Philippines, Utah and Washington.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



Wilson R. Timmons
Astoria, Fla.

WILSON Timmons hopes the Southern Region mem-

bership numbers will soar higher than some of the rockets he worked on at NASA in the 1980s.

A Navy veteran of the Korean War, Timmons has served 26 years in The American Legion since his discharge. As a past chairman of the National Security Council and the Foreign Relations committee, he comes well prepared to be a vice commander.

Indian River Post 22 in Cocoa, Fla., was practically a second home to Timmons. Of course, his first home was with wife, Julie, and their four sons: Wilson Jr., James, Richard and Andrew.

The Southern Region membership should rocket to an all-time high with help from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



Roger L. Wild
Lincoln, Neb.

THE fighting spirit of the college football champion Nebraska Cornhuskers is

part of the heritage of Roger Wild, the U.S. Navy veteran who will lead the Midwest Region during the Frank administration.

A 38-year member of Post 3, Lincoln, Neb., Wild assumes the office after serving on the National Americanism Council, but he has also served as alternate NEC member, NEC member and in numerous Post and Department offices, including Department Commander in 1981-82 and CFA Chairman since 1994. He has been a constant advocate for veterans' rights, both in Nebraska and nationally.

"I want to spread the word about the Legion and see that veterans have the health care they need. I also want young people to learn and understand what veterans have done to keep this country free," he says.

The 65-year-old Wild and his wife, Kathryn Lynne, have been long-time contributors to their community, along with their five grown children.

Wild's region comprises Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Charles H. Richmond
Edmond, Okla.

EDUCATION and inspiration have been at the heart of

Charles Richmond's life for many years.

Now he brings his unique talents to work as The American Legion's National Chaplain.

"The fellowship and opportunity for service to others found in The American Legion is unparalleled,"

the 78-year-old Richmond says.

A World War II and Korean veteran, Richmond was the youngest man ever to enter the U.S. Army's Chaplain Service.

He initially served in the China-Burma-India theater as an Army chaplain in the 1940s. When his National Guard unit was federally activated, he served in Japan and Korea during the 1950s.

Richmond joined the Legion in 1960, shortly after retiring as a full colonel.

Since that time, the chaplain for Post 111, Edmond, Okla., has expanded his influence and witnessed for others by serving in various capacities at the Post and Department levels.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN



Barbara "Bobbe" P. Stuvengen
Orfordville, Wis.

THROUGHOUT her 71 years, Bobbe Stuvengen has worn many

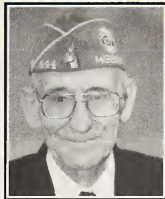
hats: legal secretary, wife, mother, WAVE, Legionnaire. All these titles mean a lot to her, but her new role as National Historian means something to every Legionnaire.

Celebrating her 17th birthday when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Stuvengen knew her future would be entwined with serving America. That has certainly proved true; she rose through the ranks, first of the Navy and then of the Legion. Serving stints as commander, adjutant and historian for Kenneth S. Wells Post 209, Orfordville, Wis., helped her prepare for Department responsibilities, including Department Historian, where she served for 11 years.

Stuvengen says she's proud of both her personal and Legion families. Her husband and both sons are Paid-Up-for-Life Legionnaires, and her two daughters-in-law are members of the Auxiliary.

Her three grandchildren are members of the Junior Auxiliary and Sons of The America Legion. "A family can weather any storm and solve any problem. That's what the Legion is all about—veterans solving problems for veterans," Stuvengen says.

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



Robert C. Horenkamp
Florissant, Mo.

NO one can accuse Robert Horenkamp of being unquali-

fied. He's been a National Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms for 26 years.

The 69-year-old member of Post 444, Florissant, Mo., has given 52 great years to the Legion since his discharge from the Navy. He served more than a year with the Navy's Seabees in a construction battalion during World War II.

While the years spent at National Conventions have been exciting, Horenkamp's most memorable Legion experience came closer to home. "Serving as Commander on our Post's 50th anniversary year (1994-95) was the best time, because I got to work closely with the people who really make things happen—the bluecappers at the Legion Posts," Horenkamp says.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AIDE



Robert L. Boxdorfer
St. Louis, Mo.

NO National Commander, no matter how competent, can

go it alone. Joe Frank will count on Bob Boxdorfer.

Since joining Barlog-Kuszaj-Zero Post 422 in St. Louis, Mo., 25 years ago, Boxdorfer has done his Marine Corps heritage proud. He has held virtually every Post office and numerous Department positions. After being Department commander in 1993-94, Boxdorfer became chairman of Missouri's Citizens Flag Alliance.

His motive? "Just because I like the camaraderie. The Legion is so much like the military was for me: efficient, friendly and active. The programs—the things we do—all mean so much," Boxdorfer says.

Boxdorfer and his wife, Rita have five children and eight grandchildren. □

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* Weight Loss

Weapon #2 is Absorbit-ALL PLUS™ (Amorphallus Konjac) a little known root grown in South East Asia. This remarkable safe and natural product actually absorbs over 100 times its

weight in water and is clinically proven in numerous scientific studies in major universities and medical centers world-wide to help you lose weight by giving you a safe and natural feeling of fullness while it actually prevents fat, harmful cholesterol and triglycerides from entering your system.

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In fact, these scientific studies were so mega-conclusive, their reports were published in such respected publications like...Cosmopolitan, McCall's, Allure, New Body, Women's Sports and Fitness...and USA Today. And guess who discovered Chromium Picolinate, it was none other than the U.S. Government Department of Agriculture and the USDA even holds a U.S. patent on this remarkable product.

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Guaranteed Risk Free Offer

Now it's time for you to decide your own fate! Are you doomed to a "life of fat" or are you going to finally break the "ugly shackles" of obesity here and now?

Right now—today—this very instant is the time for you to make that ultimate decision! But, be assured of this: When you make your decision to lose 15, 20, 25...even 50 pounds or more, it will be a decision that is backed by a 100% iron clad money back guarantee!

Either this amazing new "Super-Formula Program™" lives up to it's promises - or you won't risk one cent!

Please don't make light of this extraordinary opportunity! It's a "24 carat" golden opportunity to at last get the sexy body you've always dreamed of...quickly - without putting yourself through the tortures of painful exercise and starvation diets!

And what's more, this "Super-Formula Program™" is embarrassingly cheap, only \$49.95 for a full 30 day supply. That's only \$1.66 a day! A 60 day supply is just \$89.95 (you save \$10.00). And if you have a lot of weight to lose a 90 day supply is just \$129.95 (you



Scientists in Europe have announced the most important weight loss breakthrough ever developed. It's called Absorb-ALL™ and it actually prevents fat calories in your food from being absorbed by your body.

Absorb-ALL™ is a totally safe and natural food complex scientifically designed to attract fat and bind to it like metal shavings are attracted to a strong magnet. Fat that

you eat then passes safely out of your system forever instead of adding pounds of unwanted weight to your body. Absorb-ALL™ is the solution for people who need to lose weight but hate to diet.

Picolinate helps to add back pounds of sexy, lean muscle in place of the ugly fat that disappears - even without exercise!

Now, is it any wonder this astonishing new "Super-Formula Program™" is able to blast away so much ugly flab...with no discipline...no starvation...and no strenuous exercise?

It's certainly no wonder to the brilliant medical researchers who developed this beyond mind-blowing "Super-Formula Program™". They know medical science does not lie! The proven, bona fide facts speak loud and clear! They are unquestionable and irrefutable!!

Dramatic Proof From Leading U.S. Medical Schools

But the most startling proof comes from leading U.S. medical schools. Based upon extensive research at these prestigious institutions, NOT EVEN DOING...

- * 150 agonizing sit-ups every morning!!
- * Lifting tons of heavy barbells!!
- * Doing hundreds of painful push-ups!!
- * Or training like an Olympic sprinter!!

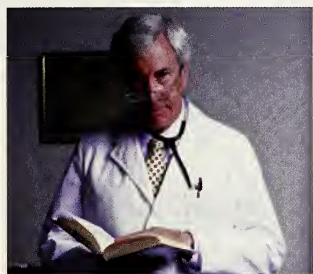
will blast away fat like this amazing new "Super-Formula Program™" will! This "epoch discovery" will cause a fat burning extravaganza unlike anything you have ever witnessed before! Your friends and family will be awestruck as they watch pounds of fat melt off you like ice-cubes melt on a sweltering August afternoon!

Your thighs, hips, stomach, and tummy will now be virtually devoid of any visible fat! Your dress size may shrink 3-4 sizes, your jewelry may slip off your fingers (better get it re-sized) and yes, the sexy bikini you've always wanted to order from that swimwear catalog is on its way by Federal Express, ready for you to slip on and show off to the entire world. A brand new you...

Slender, Sexy and Shapely!

Turning admiring heads everywhere you go! Friends won't recognize you! Family members will hardly believe their eyes! Old high school girl friends will turn jade green with envy...all because of this amazing "Super-Formula Program™"!

A "Super-Formula Program™" so powerful, so electrifying...it blasts away fat no matter how hopelessly overweight you are now! Forget those unwanted 15, 20, 25...even 50 pounds! They'll be no match against this amazing new "Super-Formula Program™" and will be gone virtually overnight. Those ugly pounds of fat that have been postpon-



save a full \$20.00). No matter what quantity you order shipping and handling is just \$5.95 per order.

In addition, you will also receive a copy of "Amazing Super-Formula™ Diet Tips, Weight-Loss Secrets and Clinical Documentation". This 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" book is overflowing with little-known weight loss tips and secrets like: **How to eat up to 6 times a day and still lose fat!** **How to exercise for only 11 minutes a day, yet burn calories for 24 straight hours!** **How to eat fast food (yes, fast food) and still lose fat!** The 3 most important facts in controlling your metabolism so you can eat more - without gaining weight!

Plus many, many more tips and weight-loss secrets too numerous to mention here. In addition you will receive the actual documented, scientific clinical proof for each of the remarkable ingredients that make up the "Super-Formula Program™". This book even reveals to you the clinically proven plan guaranteed to maximize the effectiveness of the "Super-Formula Program™" itself so you can achieve maximum weight loss in the least amount of time. You will receive your copy of this \$9.95 value with your order and it is yours to keep absolutely **Free** just for trying the "Super-Formula Program™".

And remember, no matter which amount you order it's still a microscopic amount of money to invest in the most potent fat-obliterating formula medical science has ever devised! And the "Super-Formula Program™" is ultra E-Z to order. Here's how simple it is!

Quick, race to the phone, rip it off the hook and pound 1-800-909-1144, have your trusty credit card ready and ask for Dept. 3037. Operators are standing by now to take your urgent call! All orders are shipped by 2 to 3 day U.S. Priority Mail within 72 hours of receipt.

For your convenience we can now take your check order by phone and you'll still get your order just as quickly as credit card customers. Simply call 1-800-909-1144 and ask for Dept. 3037. Have your check book ready so you can read the operator numbers at the bottom of the check you are going to use.

If you don't have a credit card, and have to or-

If You Read Nothing Else — Read This Message From Howard Retzer M.D.

I have reviewed the numerous and conclusive clinical studies and test results that have been conducted on each of the remarkable products that make up this "Super-Formula Program™". Although each component is outstanding, I am particularly impressed with Absorb-ALL™. This amazing product actually absorbs fat calories, makes them indigestible and therefore unable to be converted to fat in your body. Absorb-ALL™ can even be demonstrated and observed in a test tube to actually attract and absorb fat like a magnet.

Absorb-ALL PLUS™ can also be demonstrated in a test tube with its unique ability to actually absorb over 100 times its weight in water like a sponge, it gives you a clinically proven, safe and natural feeling of fullness. Absorb-ALL PLUS™ is simply an incredible product.

SLIM-Again™ (Hydroxyoctate and Chromium Picolinate) is equally impressive as a safe and natural appetite suppressant. Numerous clinical weight loss studies prove it.

It is important to realize that all of these fabulous products contain absolutely no drugs or chemicals whatsoever and are 100% safe and natural. In all my many years as a physician I have never come across such a remarkable combination of ingredients that are so powerful and effective for losing weight.

The incredible losses of both pounds and inches cited above and the incredible speed at which they came off, as much as 29 lbs. in just 14 days, are atypical results from all test subjects who tried the fabulous ingredients that comprise the "Super-Formula Program™".

How much will you lose and how fast will you lose it? Well here's the good news. While results vary from person to person, medical research indicates, the more overweight you are, the more weight you will lose and the faster you will lose it.

Because being your ideal weight is so important to your overall health, I urge you to try this incredible formula and prove to yourself what it can do for you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Howard Retzer

Howard Retzer M.D.

Past President of the Research Institute of Metabolism and Nutrition

der by mail, just write the words "Super-Formula Program™" on any piece of plain paper along with your name and mailing address. Enclose a check or money order made payable to SlimAmerica Inc. for the amount of "Super-Formula Program™" you want to order (plus \$5.95 shipping and handling for each order) and mail today to: SlimAmerica Incorporated, Dept. 3037 160 S.W. 12th Avenue, Suite 102 Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

That's all there is to it. But regardless of how you order...do it NOW! You have nothing to lose but pound after pound of fat. Come visit our web site at: SlimAmerica.com. For E-Mail orders: Orders@SlimAmerica.com.

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Gulf Vets' Claims Mishandled: VA

CITING ERRORS on its part, the Department of Veterans' Affairs is reopening the cases of more than 11,000 illing Persian Gulf veterans whose claims had been rejected. VA says it has discovered coding errors and other discrepancies.

"We also discovered instances of incomplete development for current medical and lay evidence, which could affect the outcome of a claim," says VA's Under Secretary for Benefits John Vogel. "On the basis of this review, we have undertaken a second review of over 11,000 cases in the tracking system to ensure complete development, adjudication and coding."

Vogel says the reviews should be completed in December.

Since the end of the Gulf War, more than 60,000 veterans have listed their names on the VA's Persian Gulf War Veterans Registry. Many of those left the Gulf healthy when the war ended in 1991.

After their return from the Gulf, they began to experience such ailments as chronic fatigue, persistent flu-like conditions, memory loss, intestinal problems, bleeding gums and painful joints.

American Legion officials lauded VA's actions as a major

breakthrough in helping Persian Gulf veterans who suffer from a variety of undiagnosed illnesses. National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Chet Stellar of Ohio says VA's double-take on the reviews was prompted largely by an American Legion report earlier this year that revealed VA has turned down 95 percent of disability compensation claims filed by veterans.

The American Legion Persian Gulf War Task Force found that the claims were denied because VA adjudication officers failed to develop cases properly or to follow the department's own regulations for granting service-connected disability compensation.

"Some of the claims were dismissed because they were not, in VA's words, 'well grounded,' for lack of evidence development, including lay evidence, while the VA turned down other claims because veterans' health problems didn't manifest within two years of their gulf service," Stellar says.

Last spring, the Legion urged VA Secretary Jesse Brown to investigate how cases were being reviewed.

Gulf War veterans and their families in need of assistance should contact The American Legion hotline at (800) 504-4098.

What's Up, Docs?

The Defense Department says it wants to hear from physicians across the country who believe they have medical information about the causes of the health complaints of Persian Gulf War veterans, including reproductive health problems.

A department hotline has been set up at (800) 472-6719, and all information received is sent to the Persian Gulf Investigative Team in Washington, D.C. The team follows up on all clinical reports, according to the DoD.

Gulf veterans and their families wanting to keep abreast of issues of concern also may contact DoD GulfLink on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dtic.dla.mil/gulfink/>.

The Web site provides users with access to a variety of topics, including reports on Gulf War illnesses.

Promoting GI Bill of Health

Legionnaires now have the tools they need to explain to their fellow veterans and communities why the GI Bill of Health is a good deal for the nation. Copies of a brochure explaining the bill, H.R. 3950, are available

in an educational kit, *The GI Bill of Health: A Vision for Excellence in Veterans Health Care*. The kit includes 25 copies of the brochure, a professionally produced video cassette and an informational speech.

"Today is the time to inform your members about the GI Bill of Health's key components so they can learn why it represents the single best chance of expanding the VA health-care system to all veterans and their families," says National Commander Joseph J. Frank.

"It's equally important for our members to educate their congressional representatives about H.R. 3950, which was introduced in the House last summer, so we can generate sufficient bipartisan support on Capitol Hill."

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE launched a series about the GI Bill of Health in the October issue. The latest installment appears on page 26 of this issue.

GI Bill of Health information kits are available to Legionnaires through National Emblem Sales for \$8, which includes handling and shipping.

To order, write: National Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1050, or call (317) 630-1251.

Refer to Stock No. 78075. Callers also may telephone National Emblem Sales at its toll-free number, (888) 453-4466.

COLA Effective Dec. 1

Disabled veterans and newly discharged service members seeking civilian employment stand to fare better following Senate action late last summer.

S 1791 calls for a 2.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment for veterans receiving disability compensation or their survivors. The percentage increase mirrors the Consumer Price Index. The adjustment will take effect Dec. 1.

S 1791 also establishes a Commission on Service Members and Veterans Transition Assistance, with the aim of determining the needs of service members leaving the military and entering the civilian workforce.

In other recent action, the Senate passed S 1751, revising procedures for providing claimants and their representatives with copies of Board of Veterans Appeals decisions and clarifying claimants' authority with respect to the appointment of veterans' service organization representatives. □

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The Veterans' Connection

VETS® is a service that provides information about military reunions, helps veterans find old buddies and arranges reunions, travel and accommodations.

REUNION INFORMATION

This month there are 520 military reunions listed on these pages. In addition, VETS® has information on more than 12,000 other reunions. Call weekdays, 12 noon to 8 p.m., CDT. Calls cost \$1.95 per minute. The average call takes three minutes.

1 (900) 737-VETS

1 (900) 737-8387

If you know the VETS® five-digit number assigned to your ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed after each outfit's name listed in the magazine. If you don't know the number or do not see your ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS® operators might still be able to provide you reunion information. Units are enrolling in VETS® daily.

PLANNING A REUNION

VETS® will help you arrange your outfit's reunion at no cost and save money in the process. Finders/Seekers® services are included free for VETS® managed reunions. VETS® also will maintain reunion coordinators' mailing lists and unit archives, and handle all reunion publicity needs. Tell us what you want, and we will do the work.

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1 (800) 844-VETS

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FINDING A BUDDY

Looking for a buddy or long lost relative? Finders/Seekers® service will send you a computer listing of names, addresses and phone numbers of people in the United States who have the same name as the person you're seeking. Finders/Seekers® guarantees you will get at least one name that matches, or it will refund your money. Search fees are \$25 per name. Allow six weeks for a reply.

Write: Finders/Seekers®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901; or call (800) 449-VETS. Mastercard/VISA accepted.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS® by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VETS®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901. Unit names are published one time per year.

ARMY

1st Cav Div, 7th Rgt, E Co (Korea) #13558
1st Engr Spec Bde (ASEB) (Incl. 531st Shore Rgt/Support Units) #14580
1st Inf Div, 1st Sig Co Assn #15016
1st Inf Div, 35th Inf Ptn Scout Gd #23197
1st Recon Motor Bn (Korea, SO-53) #14861
2nd Inf Div, 7th Cav Rgt, C Tpn, 1st Plk, 4th Sig (VN 69-71) #23399
2nd Inf Div, 9th Inf Rgt, Tank Co (Korea SO-51) #23406
2nd Missile Det (Phulderand) #19639
3rd Arm Cvy Rgt (50-65) #22270
3rd Arm, 512th FA Bn (WWII) #19875
4th/506th Hel Co & 152nd Maint Det #16221
5th Arm of Inf (Midwest Chap) #15791
5th Station Hospital #21671
6th Arm of Inf Assn #15414
6th Inf Div, 4th Sig Co #19880
6th Inf Div Assn (WWII/Korea/K) #20565
7th Cav Rgt, Hvy Mtr Co (Korea) #12348
7th Engr(C) Bn (All Yrs) #18718
7th Inf Div, 184th Rgt Assn (WWII) #20667
8th Arm, 73rd/341st Ord (45-50) #21570
9th Arm of Inf, 3rd Arm'd FA Bn (WWII) #15989
9th Inf Div, 1st 11th Army (VN) #21541
9th Inf Div, 2nd 39th (VN) #21549
9th Inf Div, 39th Inf Rgt, Co K (44-46) #23259
9th Inf Div, 47th Rgt, 4th Bn, (VN 69-70) #13758
10th Inf Div, 40th FA Bn (54-58) #16176
10th Inf Div, 85th Rgt, 1 Co (F Riley 50-51) #19742
10th Station Hospital #15963
11th Arm'd Div, 55th Arm'd M Co, Co #16310
17th A/B Div, 513th Para Inf, A Co #19734
17th A/B Div Assn #16619
17th CAHDP, AsP, APO 502 (WWII) #14255
20th Weather (Fl Cracker) #18155
20th Trans Co (AOS) (67-68) #19170
22nd AAA (Okinawa SO-52) #23223
22nd Ord Serv Bn #10366
24th Inf Div, 11th FA Bn, All Btlys (Korea) #21013
24th Inf Div, 21st Rgt, King Co (Korea SO-52) #20076
24th Inf Div Assn (All Yrs) #19813
24th Inf RCT (77th Engr(C) Co, 159th FA Bn, 512th MP Co) #16699
24th RCT (Incl 77th Engr(C) Co, 159th FA Bn, 512th MP Co) #13946
25th Inf Div, 35th Rgt, D Co (Korea SO-52) #30141
27th AAA AV Btry (Fl Banning) #22718
28th Inf Div, 110th Rgt Assn (WWII) #10301
28th Inf Div, 112th Rgt, 1 Co (SO-53) #19750
30th FA Bn #11172
30th Inf Div, 149th Rgt, G Co #15610
33rd Chem Decon Unit (WWII) #23405
34th Engr(C) Bn (Okinawa/Korea, 45-47) #15571
34th Inf Div, 109th Engr(C) Bn (WWII) #15685
35th Inf Div, 134th Rgt (WWII) #15531
35th Inf Div, 137th Rgt #19347
35th Inf Div, 320th Rgt #15840
35th Cav Recon Sq (WWII) #10126
37th Inf Div, 138th FA Bn #19101
37th Inf Div Assn #15753
38th Ord MM Co (41-45) #15545
39th Engr(C) (WWII) #15374
39th Inf Div, 160th Rgt, 1st Bn, A Co #10427
40th Inf Div, 160th Rgt, Mtr Co (Korea, SO-53) #16411
40th Inf Div, 160th Rgt (Korea) #15575
41st Inf Div Assn #15766
43rd Inf Div, 159th Rgt, H Co (SO-52) #12120
43rd Inf Div, 172nd Rgt, E Co #16389
44th Engr (C) Bn (Broken Heart, Korea) #11171
44th Inf Div, 324th Rgt (WWII) #11108
45th Inf Div, 249th Rgt, M Co (Korea) #22531
45th Inf Div, 257th Rgt #14177
45th Inf Div, 279th Rgt, G Co (Korea) #11350
45th Inf Div, 70th Ord MM Co (Korea) #19706
47th Inf Div, 125th FA Bn, B Btry (Camp Rucker, 51-53) #23210
48th Gen Hospital (Engr-F, WWII) #15454
50th AAA AW Bn (SP) #11902
51st Pioneer Inf Rgt (WWII) #20057

52nd MP Co #19841
57th Engr(C) Bn, B Co #19511
58th Engr Treadway Bridge Co (49-53) #15750
61st Engr(C) Sbrt Co (Korea SO-53) #23313
61st Med Bn (WWII) #23224
62nd Hvy Pl (Augsburg, Ger) #22450
63rd Inf Div Assn (WWII) #14930
64th Gen Hospital (WWII) #16257
64th Inf Assn #12207
66th Engr Tpn Co (51-54) #11374
66th Ord Bn, 340th Ord, D Co (Iceland) #13879
68th Sig Bn, 4th Yrs/Cos) #15447
69th Inf Div, 880th FA Bn, C Btry (WWII) #21881
70th Hvy Tank Bn Armor Assn #12702
73rd AAA AW Bn (SP) #15368
76th Inf Div, 76th Cav Recon Tpn #15850
77th FA (WWII) #23217
79th Inf Div, 904th FA Bn #16272
79th Inf Div, Sig Co (WWII) #19380
83rd Inf Div, 331st Rgt, L Co #22483
83rd Inf Div Assn "Thunderbolt" (WWII) #16231
83rd Inf Div (Boston Chap) #23257
86th Engr(H) Ponton Bn (WWII) #10471
87th Inf Div, 342nd Rgt, M Co #19307
86th Inf Div "Blackhawk" Assn #11019
86th Ord Co Assn (1942-66) #19577
90th Chem Motor Bn #19002
91st Inf Div, 362nd Rgt, E Co #18279
97th Inf Div, 303rd Rgt, 2nd Bn & Medics #20588
97th Inf Div, 308th Rgt, D Co #11160
97th Inf Div, 389th Rgt, L Co #16074
98th Inf Div, 323rd Engr(C) #23271
100th Inf Div, 375th FA Bn #15646
101st AB, 501st Bn, 2nd Bde, A Co (VN 70/71) #15326
101st MP Bn Assn (WWII) #18476
103rd Inf Div, 409th Rgt, D Co (WWII) #10269
103rd Inf Div, 410th Rgt, C Co (WWII) #15843
110th Gen Hospital (WWII) #23195
113th AAA Gun Bn Assn (WWII) #16268
118th AAA Gun Bn #19348
118th Sig Radio Unit (WWII) #22502
125th AAA Gun Bn (WWII) #16565
137th Sig Radio Unit #15726
142nd Gen Hospital (WWII) #16684
145th Engr(C) Bn #21745
145th Engr(C) Bn #10423
148th Engr(C) Bn (WWII) #15511
151st Med Bn, 8 Co (WWII) #19486
151st Ord Bn, Hq/A/B Co's #14212
154th Gen Hospital (Engr) #19753
154th Inf Div, 154th Rgt, 1st Bn #10330
164th Engr(C) Bn (WWII) #16517
173rd A/B Bde (SEP) (Incl Attach Asn/NZ) #15267
182nd Station Hospital (Africa/Italy, WWII) #10310
194th FA Bn, 194th Grp Hq, 185th/740th FA (WWII) #15359
203rd Engr Bn #14108
203rd Gen Hospital (ETO WWII) #15705
216th Ord HM Co (FA) #16419
227th AAA S/L Bn Assn (WWII) #15992
239th Engr(C) Bn #10986
244TH FA Bn (WWII) #20728
244th Engr(C) Bn #10985
246th Sig Op Co (WWII) #16607
254th FA Bn #10177
254th Engr Bn #16061
265th FA Bn, C Btry (WWII) #11172
278th Engr(C) Bn (WWII) #10169
277th FA Bn (All Yrs) #15552
278th Engr(C) Bn, C Co #12801
279th Engr(C) Bn (WWII) #15258
280th FA Bn (WWII) #16212
293rd Engr(C) Bn, C Co (WWII) #10234
325th AAA S/L Bn, Hq/A/B/C Btys #16359
338th Amphib Engr Bn (WWII) #15721
338th Engr Bn (WWII) #16054
339th RCT, "Polar Bears" (All Units, WWII) #15251
348th Engr Engr(C) #13379
377th Harbor Craft Co #10926
382nd AAA AW Bn #10374
391st AAA AW Bn (WWII) #23239
397th AAA AW Bn 40 M/N (WWII) #15536
397th Inf Div, 387th Rgt, M Co #15865
406th Engr Const Bn, A Co #14137
423rd Med Collect Corps (ETO WWII) #21059
432nd MP Escort Guard Co (43-46) #23177
438th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #23290
440th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #17610
472nd AAA Bn #11250
472nd MP Co #15687
482nd AAA AW Bn (SP) Assn (WWII) #10670
493rd AAA AW Bn (SP) #15771
503rd MP Bn (Europe, WWII) #20856
507th QM Car Co (WWII) #15456
532nd ESR (All Units) #18401
535th QM Co (New York) Plt 44-46 #15514
542nd Para Inf Assn #21665
543rd EB & SR, C Co #16237
550th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #22281
550th Signal Base Opeal Co #15351
558th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #16484
558th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #10183
568th Ord HW Co (Korea, SO-54) #11560
574th/565th SNA Bns #16115
602nd Engr Camo Bn #16635
609th TD Bn Assn #10287
612th/131th FA Bn (PK), (WWII) #16006
644th Tn Bn #16598
667th FA Bn #16298
690th Ord Ammo Co #16140
691st TD Bn (WWII) #19234
692nd TD Bn #15601
693rd Port Co #16403
702nd Tank Bn, C Co, "Red Devils" #18884
705th EPOC #23284
707th Tank Bn Assn (WWII) #15702
710th Tank Bn (WWII) #16393
712th THOB, Co C (WWII/Korea) #15463
722nd RHO (HRSV) #15837
722nd RHO (HRSV) #15837
722nd RHO (HRSV) #15837
722nd RHO (HRSV) #15837
739th M Tank Bn (SP) (WWII) #10679
756th FA Bn Assn (WWII/Korea) #16132
757th Tank Bn (WWII) #16264
759th MP Bn (Berlin 45-53) #12396
759th Trans Railway S Bn (Korea) #21880
775th FA Bn (WWII) #15505
778th Tank Bn (WWII) #11109
786th Engr Petrol Dist Co #10424
788th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #22121
792nd AAA AW Bn (WWII) #16103
802nd Engr Assn #15223
822nd TD Bn (WWII) #15247
839th/840th Engr Assn Bn, (Korea) #14083
834th Sig Serv Bn, Sig Corps #13218
845th Ord Depot Co #12897
854th Engr Assn (WWII) #16563
859th Engr Assn Bn #16425
864th Engr Const Bn, 35th Grp, 18th Bde (VN, 70/71) #20785
869th AAA AW Bn, Hq/Hq Btry (H, WWII) #16360
945th FA Bn #10351
974th Engr Train Co #16308
990th Ord Base Depot Co #22000
1010 Engr Treadway Bridge Co #21868
1056th Engr PCAR Grp (WWII) #12656
109th Army Mater Co (VN) #13118
1268th Engr(C) Bn, A Co (WWII) #10434
137th Engr Petrol Dist Co #20457
1620th MP Unit (Camp McCoy) #13442
1874th Avn Bn (W/Pacific, WWII) #14143
1891st Engr Assn Bn (CBI, WWII) #20877
3062nd OM Bakery Co, Mtl Spc #15556
1348th (H) Maint Ord Co (Guadalcanal, 43-45) #23240
3451st Ord MM Co (45-46) #19246
3482nd Ord MM Co (WWII) #15832
3485th Ord Co & 249th Ord Bn (Italy 45-47) #13647
3532nd Ord MM Co, (WWII) #23286
3706 AFU BP, MP & Provost Office (Sheppard Field, 45-46) #23269
768th Ord Sht Co, Austria; 603 BAM/237 Ord Bn (Leghorn, Italy 45-47) #13646
705/85th AAA Gun, 4 Co, C Btry (Okinawa, SO-54) #21333
972/991/881/160/82 Cos, 56/53rd Ord Grp (Florence, Italy, 45-47) #19341
ATWSPAC, Manila (Philippine U, 46) #23258
ASA: 80th Sig Radio Unit Co (43-51) #10425
ASA: Hq, ASAPAC (Tokyo, 45-52) #12046
CBI/Merrill's Marauders #23249
Coast Artys Corps (pre-JSO) #16415
F Richardson, AC (All Persn) #13079
Nat Counter Intell Center #10935
Prim Sig Relay Center, SO 173 Hq #23283
Schweabisch Gmünd (Ger 57-65) #22392
US Constabulary Assn, Outpost #5 (WLM/OH/IL/N) #22535
V Corps, Hq Vets Assn (WWII) #10115
WAC (Hq Vets Co) #19361

NAVY

1st NCB Spec (WWII) #22524

Please turn page

Prostate Problems are a Man's Disease-Right? **WRONG!**

**Prostate problems affect men physically
but affect both men & women emotionally!**

If you suspect that your husband or male friend may be suffering from a prostate problem, then you have to help him. It is in your and his best interest for him to be healthy. Most men wait too long and endure pain too long before seeking help. Prostate problems may ultimately kill them or simply make them impotent for the rest of their lives. But, there is help for a prostate deficiency with our 100% natural, enriched nutritional supplement called: **Extra Strength PROSTX** containing a full 100 mg. of **Pygeum Africanum** per tablet.

Pygeum Africanum: Therapy for Prostate Relief

In both France and Italy, extract of **Pygeum** is recognized for prostate therapy and is available by prescription. Throughout Europe, **Pygeum** is the preferred method for treating prostate disorders - ranking above surgery.

Younger men are more likely to suffer prostate infections than BPH. **Pygeum** is a natural antibiotic, and is ideal for treating the infection.

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Extra Strength PROSTX contains:

Glycine, L-Alanine and L-Glutamic Acid
for a total of..... 406 mg.
Saw Palmetto..... 300 mg.
Pygeum Africanum..... 200 mg.
Pumpkin Seed Concentrate..... 30 mg.
Panox Ginseng..... 30 mg.
Zinc..... 20 mg./133% RDA

The daily dosage is only 2 tablets because of the extra strength formula.

Zinc Deficiency in Men

The prostate gland normally contains about ten times more zinc than any other organ in the body. Researchers point to the fact that one of the most common symptoms of zinc deficiency is prostate enlargement. Chronic prostatitis, where inflammation of the gland is combined with infection, has been found to respond to treatment with zinc. **Extra Strength PROSTX** with **Pygeum Africanum** also contains 10 mg. of zinc per tablet. Some doctors have called zinc the "man's vitamin".

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NOW AVAILABLE 2 Tablets Per Day for Natural Prostate Nutrition GUARANTEED

Our researchers have formulated this enriched formula so that you need only 2 tablets per day instead of the normal 3 per day that other companies sell. The researchers have also increased the zinc content so that you receive 20 mg. per day and have added 15 mg. per tablet of Panox Ginseng. Each tablet now contains 150 mg. of Saw Palmetto and also 15 mg. of Pumpkin Seed Concentrate. **This is the most advanced and comprehensive formula available** - and it costs approximately half the price of the other products (that are not nearly as strong as **Extra Strength PROSTX**). The reason: 2 tablets per day and not 3 tablets per day. **COMPARE OUR INGREDIENTS and PRICES with OUR COMPETITORS FORMULA - CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF THE BETTER (more complete, comprehensive and priced PRODUCT).**



With **Extra Strength PROSTX** your prostate receives safe, time tested nourishment. One bottle contains 60 tablets - one month's supply. *It is recommended that you try a two month supply since your body needs time to gradually and naturally let these ingredients work their way into your system.* Everyone is slightly different and the absorption time varies from person to person. Full results should occur within 45 to 60 days - in many cases sooner.

OUR CUSTOMERS HAVE SAID:

...no more endless trips to the bathroom at night
...no burning sensation when or after I urinate
...I now can empty my bladder completely without straining
...finally, I can sit through an entire sports event without having to go every hour

Extra Strength PROSTX is a nutritional supplement for a man's prostate gland. It is completely guaranteed. To receive a refund, simply return the unused tablets and container, a full refund of purchase price (less P&H) will be sent to you. All orders are shipped **FIRST CLASS MAIL** within 7 working days. To order, simply fill out the coupon and mail with your check or money order to the address below. We also accept VISA or MasterCard (1-800-770-1155). **Extra Strength PROSTX** is a nutritional supplement. No medical claims are made or implied. Not available in CANADA, MEXICO, IOWA, CONNECTICUT, any European County or Australia.

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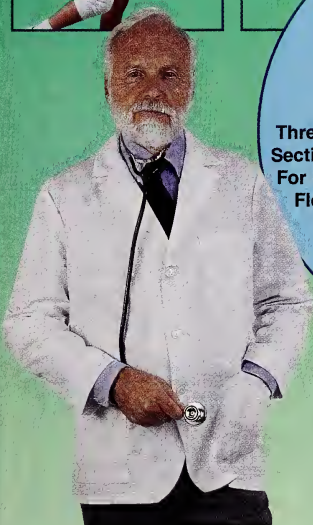
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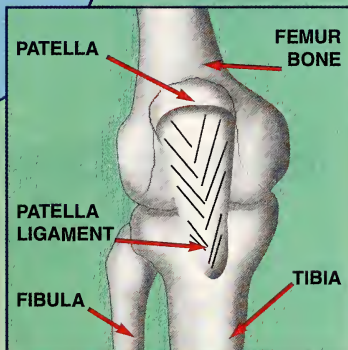
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WETS

Continued from page 60

405th Sig Co (Am) #23219
440th/472nd Sig Bns #22495
465th Bomb Grp, 783rd Bomb Sq, #16979
508th Air Refuel Sq #23252
550th Strategic Missile Sq (Pittsburgh AFB) #12572
807th ACW/TAC Control Grp (Ar-400) #23203
1125th MP Co Avn (PTO 43-46) #18720
1/2-3/4 Strategic Support Sqs #21840
1938th AACs Sq (Ramey AFB) #23270
2597th Air Police Sq (Brooks AFB, 50's) #19542
3360th Insl Grp, Minuteman Pers (Chanute AFB 61-65) #21571
3557th Obs Trng Sq (Coxley AFB 51-58) #20017
3726 BMTS Flt 1208 (Lackland AFB 54/55) #23216
7167th Spec Air Missions Sq (Incl Assoc Persnl) #19431
7505th USAF Hospital #21612
AACs Alumni Assn #12465
A/B Special Ops (PA) #23181
Aero Med Evac Assn (Incl Altnh's Units) #15134
Bernell Airlift Vets Assn #15089
Nha Trang Air Base (Incl. Arny, VN) #12813
Photo Mapping Assn #20426
Pilot Class 49-C #22777

ARMY AIR FORCE

5th AF, 1128/1402 MP Co (Am) #23208
5th AF, 314th Comp Wing, Hq/Hq Sq (WWII, Korea) #16841
5th AF, 3rd Emer Rescu Sq (SW Pacific) #16841
5th AF, 679/703/1256/1537/1539th Ord Cos (SW Pac, WWII) #10274
5th AF, 80th Serv Grp (Australia WWII) #19608
5th Air Force, VBC (5th Bomb Command, WWII) #23213
5th Station Hospital #20038
7th AF, 87th Airborne Sq (WWII) #10706
7th Ferrying Grp (Gore Field, Great Falls, MT WWII) #20397
8th AF, 385th BG, 424th Air Serv Grp, 88th Serv Sq (Eng) #23246
8th AF, 401st Bomb Grp(Inf) #15137
8th AF, 447th Bomb Grp #12538
9th AF, 323rd Bomb Grp, 455th Bomb Sq (WWII) #12464
9th AF, 363rd Tac Recon Grp, 161st Tac Recon Sq (ETO, WWII) #21622
9th AF, 391st Bomb Grp Assn #20978
9th AF, 74th Air Serv Grp, 390th Air Serv Sq #10416

10th AF, 7th Bomb Grp #15015
13th AF, 42nd Bomb Grp, 390th Bomb Sq(M) #16851
15th AF, 465th Bomb Grp, (Venosa II, WWII) #15052
15th AF, 50th Air Serv Sq (WWII) #22165
20th AF, 21st Cmnd, 347th HQ Serv Sq (Jwo Ima 45) #23254
20th AF, B-29's (Guam, WWII) #15114
24th Comf Guam Group (WWII) #23187
24th Combat Mapping Sq (CBI) #11023
27th Air Transport Group Assn (WWII) #16857
28th Photo Recon Sq (PTO, WWII) #15107
33rd Air Depot Grp (WWII) #16769
34th Air Depot Grp (WWII) #16816
38th Bomb Grp Assn (WWII) #16865
44th Bomb Wing, 44th Bomb Grp Vets Assn (WWII-94) #15180
45th Air Depot Grp (Incl Altnh's Units) #11164
52nd Flt Grp, 5th Flt Sq (WWII) #20989
57th Bomb Wing Assn. (WWII) #16757
61st TC Grp, 15th TC Sq #22346
66th Airborne Sq (WWII) #20246
68th Flt Sq (WWII) #20443
76th TC Sq (WWII) #16942
90th Air Serv Grp, Hq/Base Serv Sq (Guam, WWII) #19653
92nd Airborne Sq #16858
308th/343rd Sig Cos Wing (WWII) #20266
310th/311th/312th Ferrying Sqs #11058
323rd Bomb Grp, 454th Bomb Sq #20448
325th Flt Grp "Checkerkalls" (WWII) #22757
373rd Flt Grp, 412th Flt Sq (WWII) #19464
407th Sig Co(A-VON) #22706
434th TGS, 71st TC Sq (WWII) #23278
435th TC Grp, 76/77/78th TC Sqs (WWII) #16959
435th TC Grp, Hq Assn (WWII) #16966
439th TC Grp, 93rd TC Sq(WWII) #15030
463rd Bomb Grp (Incl Suppl Sqs, Italy, WWII) #16835
463rd Engrs (Thule, Greenland) #22342
484th Bomb (H) Grp "Kelley's Kobras" #20847
507th Flt Grp Assn, 463rd/464th/465th Sq, HO Det (WWII) #13052
71st Sig Corps Assn, 56th Air Serv Sq (WWII) #12215
9715th AF, 323rd Grp, 331st Air Serv Sq (Africa/Italy, WWII) #10666
919th Engr Avn Maint Co, 6010th Engr Avn Co, (49-56) #10510
931st Sig Bn Avn Sp #16764
1177th Avn MP Co (CBI) #16910
1352nd AAFBU, Search/Rescue (ATC/CBI/WWII) #14283
3505th AAFBU, Search/Rescue (ATC/CBI/WWII) #19456
Armory Airfield, OK #17963
Basic Trng Center #2 (44-45) #23236
OV-1 Mohawk Assn #22911
Roswell AAF/Walker AFB Vets Assn (Incl Civilian, 41-67) #11570

MARINES

1st Mar Div, 1st Amphib Truck Co (DUKW) (Korea, 50-53) #12556

1st Mar Div, 1st Med Bn, C Co #22968
1st Mar Div, 1st Rgt, 3rd Bn, G Co (Korea) #20102
1st Mar Div, 5th Rgt, 2nd Bn, Weapons Co #23231
3rd MAW, VMSB-333 (WWII) #14471
5th Amphib Corps, MP Co, H&S Bn #41787
5th Field/Serv, Depots "5th Fielders" (Guam, WWII) #12419
5th Mar Div, 26th Rgt, 1st Bn, A Co (WWII) #19635
12th Mar Rgt, 4th Bn, K Btry (VN 65-69) #11220
26th Mar Rgt, 1st Bn, C Co #23229
Air Traffic Control Assn (All Eras) #22388
Avn Supply Marines (East) #17100
Banana Fleet Marines (20-40) #17168
Boat Camp, Paris Is, Plt 125 (Dec 47) #23407
Cold Weather Trng Bn (Korea) #22173
FLSG-Alpha Bravo (All Units, 66-70) #13923
FMS-PAC Drum/Bugle Team, Hq Co (Camp Smith HI, All Yrs) #12206
Keystone Marines (PA, AMMV) #14945
Mar Air Warn Sq 11 (Kume Shima) #17134
Marine Raider Assn #10671
Montford Point Assn, Inc #17096
Panama Canal Marines (41-45) #10342
VNF-PAC Drum/Bugle Team, Hq Co (Camp Smith HI, All Yrs) #19094
VNF-VMA-223 #12499
VNF/VMAF/VMAF-15 Assn (43-95) #14732
Women Marines Assn #21046

COAST GUARD

Greenland Patrol (All 45 Vessels/Shore Stas, Aircraft & Army, WWII) #23212
LF-762, USS Floyd Co (WWII/Korea/VN, Incl Navy) #23215
PF-71 New Bedford (PI Frigate Assn) #10114
PF-8 Everett, PI Frigate Assn #23222
USS Belknap PF-35 (WWII) #10465
USS Durand OF-389 (WWII) #10824
USS Gen M Chugs L Scott AP-136 (WWII) #10099
USS Gen N M Hughes AP-116 #20797
USS Hursi OF-250 (WWII) #23228
USS Orange PF-43 #12803
USS Spencer CG-36 #21002

MISCELLANEOUS

1st American Branch, Burma Star Assn (WWII) #23247
American WWII Orphans Network #12098
Augusta Ml Academy (PI Defense, VA) #21401
George Field Assn (WWII) #12493
Jwo Ima Survivors Assn of NY #21737
Office of Strategic Service, R&D Branch (WWII) #19797
Saigon American Assn #12820
Yokohama Mission High School (47-53) #21450

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How To Double Your Weight Loss With Garlic and Vinegar

(SPECIAL) - Yes, it's true...add the powerful combination of garlic and vinegar to your diet and you'll DOUBLE your weight loss overnight.

Not one, but five international studies have concluded that this safe, all natural duo revs up your fat burning furnace to an incredible rate. The scientific studies were done independently by medical researchers in China, France, England, South Africa and Russia.

In the Chinese study, the test subjects on the diet alone dropped an average of five pounds a week. However, the garlic and vinegar group lost an average of TEN pounds a week. According to Dr. Chen-Li Shen of the Chinese "Institute of Applied Nutrition": "Each releases powers in the other that would remain untapped if you took just one or the other."

"We obtained identical results," says Dr. Raymond Fisk, director of a study at the Obesity Research Center in London, confirming the double weight loss results...and also finding they worked with ANY diet.

A new doctor's book called *Honey, Garlic & Vinegar Home Remedies* reveals precisely how to use these natural wonders for weight loss. Scientific evidence also indicates that they can be of medicinal value in the treatment of: arthritis, athlete's foot, bronchitis, burns, colds and flu, cold sores,

constipation, cramps, diarrhea, eczema, fatigue, fungus, heart problems, muscle aches, prostatitis, psoriasis, rheumatism, sinus congestion, sore throat, urinary infections, virus and yeast infections and more.

Honey, Garlic & Vinegar Home Remedies also shows you exactly how to make hundreds of remedies using honey, garlic and vinegar separately and in unique combinations. Each preparation is carefully described along with the health condition for which it is formulated.

Learn how to prepare ointments, tonics, lotions, poultices, syrups and compresses in your own kitchen. Whip up a batch to treat:

- **ARTHRITIS:** Doctor reports that this remedy helps relieve the pain with no side effects
- **AGE SPOTS:** Watch them fade with this mixture
- **CORNS & CALLOUSES:** Get rid of them fast with this natural method
- **HANGOVER:** Feel like your old self in no time
- **HEADACHE:** Enjoy fast relief without drugs
- **HEMORRHOIDS:** Don't suffer another day without this proven recipe
- **LEG CRAMPS:** Try this simple way to quick relief
- **MUSCLE ACHEs:** Just mix up a batch of this
- **STINGS & BITES:** Medical journals recommend this remedy to reduce pain and swelling fast

• **STOMACH PROBLEMS:** This remedy calms upset stomach as noted in medical journals for ulcers

• **TOOTHACHE:** This remedy gives instant relief until you can get to the dentist

• **WEIGHT LOSS:** Secret remedy speeds fat burn and flushes stubborn fat from hiding places

You'll also find: *Dozens of easy-to-make beauty preparations for hair and skin, including a wrinkle smoother that really works. *Hundreds of delicious recipes using these health-giving super foods. *Over 100 money-saving cleaning compounds to keep your home, car and clothing sparkling.

Right now, you can receive a special press run of the Doctor's book *Honey, Garlic & Vinegar Home Remedies* for just \$8.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. You must be completely satisfied, or simply return it in 90 days for a full refund.

HERE'S HOW TO ORDER: Simply print your name and address and the word "Remedies" on a piece of paper and mail it along with a check or money order for only \$9.95 to: THE LEADER CO., INC., Publishing Division, Dept. HG393, P.O. Box 8347, Canton, Ohio 44711. (Make checks payable to The Leader Co., Inc.) VISA or MasterCard send card number and expiration date.

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IRRITABLE COLON?

(Special) If you suffer problems such as constipation, bloating, diarrhea, gas, stomach cramps, heartburn, pain and discomfort associated with the colon or Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), you should know about a new book, *The Irritable Bowel Syndrome & Gastrointestinal Solutions Handbook*.

The book contains the latest up-to-date information on the digestive system—what can go wrong, how it can best be treated, and how to protect yourself from IBS and stomach problems. The book gives you specific facts on the latest natural and alternative remedies that can bring prompt and lasting relief without the use of dangerous drugs. You'll learn all about these new remedies and find out how and why they work. You'll discover what you can do to avoid IBS, digestive and stomach problems, what foods actually promote healing, and what to avoid at all costs. The book even explains a simple treatment that has helped thousands rid themselves of IBS and stomach dis-

tress, yet is little-known to most people—even doctors.

The book also explains how the gastrointestinal system works, how food is digested, how specific foods affect digestion, why certain foods and activities cause problems, why over 20 million people suffer IBS and gastrointestinal problems—and how most people are now able to overcome their problems.

Many Americans are putting up with troublesome IBS, stomach and digestive problems because they are unaware of new natural treatments and the welcome relief that is now available.

Get all the facts. Order today. You can order direct from the publisher and save. The book is available for only \$12.95 (plus \$3 postage & handling). To order, send your name and address with payment to United Research Publishers, 103 N. Highway 101, Dept. ALS-1, Encinitas, CA 92024. You may return the book within 90 days for a refund if not satisfied.

TINNITUS RELIEF!

(Special) If you suffer from Tinnitus and experience symptoms such as ringing in the ears or buzzing, hissing, whistling or other sounds, you should know about a new book: *The Tinnitus Handbook—A Self-Help Guide*.

The book contains a wealth of information on Tinnitus—what causes unwanted noises, how to deal with them, and how to protect yourself from frustrating Tinnitus symptoms.

The book gives you facts on the natural, alternative and medical remedies that can bring lasting relief from unwanted ringing and irritating sounds in your ears. You will learn all about new treatments and find out how and why they work.

You'll discover how to get relief from Tinnitus by gently massaging a specific part of your neck. You'll find out about a simple breathing exercise which "cleanses" the inner ear and brings relief. You'll discover how uttering a specific

sound helps some Tinnitus sufferers and how certain dietary changes can bring dramatic relief. You'll learn how an herbal ear drop used before bedtime can help—and even how a little-known prescription medication brings relief about 76 percent of the time.

Many people are putting up with irritating Tinnitus problems because they are not aware of new natural treatments and the welcome relief that is available.

Get all the facts. Order *The Tinnitus Handbook—A Self-Help Guide* today. You can order direct from the publisher and save. The book is available for only \$12.95 (plus \$3 postage and handling). To order, simply send your name and address with payment to United Research Publishers, 103 North Highway 101, Dept. ALB-3, Encinitas, CA 92024. You may return the book within 90 days for a refund if not satisfied.

Reduce your risk of heart disease by 40% or more!

How I discovered "the French Secret" to lower cholesterol and a healthier heart

by Dr. Stephen E. Langer M.D., Berkeley California.

As a medical doctor, it's always amazed me that the French, even with their rich, high-fat food diets, had much lower cholesterol and healthier hearts than we do. (Do you know they have a 42% lower incidence of heart disease than Americans?)

So when I was visiting the Riviera, a French doctor I met laughed as he explained, "It's because we French drink lots of *vin*!" But he quickly added that you can now get all the healthy heart benefits of drinking 2 glasses of red wine in a convenient one-a-day capsule, without alcohol, sugar, preservatives or side effects.

That's when he introduced me to French Parad'ox capsules, which I have been taking daily ever since and which I now recommend to my patients.

You see, alcohol free one a day French Parad'ox capsules contain powerful *ritamin-like antioxidants* which are the secret of red wine's healthy heart benefits.

These antioxidant benefits include helping to prevent clogged arteries, thereby allowing oxygen rich blood to circulate more freely throughout the body.

The healthy heart benefits of red wine have been confirmed by research at major medical centers including *Harvard* and the *University of Wisconsin*.

World renowned medical researchers predict French Parad'ox antioxidants will soon be as much a part of heart disease prevention as aspirin is today.

Chances are you have seen or heard about the French Paradox reported in the New York Times, on 60 Minutes and the Today Show. It's "the" *cholesterol cure for the life of your healthy heart*.



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"I would not be without French Parad'ox. My cholesterol is way down."

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A. Shotwell, MO

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E. Levene, NY

"It's a pleasure to see French Parad'ox waiting for me every day beside my orange juice."

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LETTERS

Continued from page 4

(often involving the grandkids) until the money catches up. Plus spend extra time getting the pay problems corrected. Private industry makes eliminating these problems their top priority. The military should consider being better than the best in the private system.

*Robert O. Hahn
Monroe, La.*

Hungry for Heroes

AFTER reading "Who Are Our Heroes?" (July), one wonders if there is a deliberate effort in this nation to ignore or denigrate real American heroes in favor of Hollywood greats or football players, many of whom are anything but role models. I tried for 20 years to get the Post Office to recognize Eddie Rickenbacker—our World War I Ace of Aces—with a stamp. Recently they did so by putting his picture on a 60-cent stamp calling him an aviation pioneer. How many Americans will ever use a 60-cent stamp?

*Richard Corby
Amarillo, Texas*

August Excellence

YOUR August issue really caught my eye! I discovered that your articles are of first-rate quality. I refer specifically to "Cyber Soldiers", "Woodpeckers, Mallards and Us" and "Cold Cash." In fact, all the articles in that issue are extremely good. Congratulations!

*Donald R. Hart Jr.
West Cornwall, Conn.*

Money Madness

PLEASE give me a break with your article "Cold Cash," (August). This money-can't-buy-happiness nonsense is just silly. It would certainly buy 99 percent of the happiness or a vast selection of what misery I wanted!

*Dixie Stillman
San Antonio, Texas*

BECOMING a multi-millionaire by winning a lottery has its pros and cons. However, all the benefits would outweigh the insignificant annoyances. Many, many Americans

would experience a feeling of well-being, contentment and elation to win millions in a lottery. Myself included.

*Edward Klisiewicz
Temple, Texas*

ISINCERELY feel sorry for the winners of large sums of money whose lives were so radically changed. But I'd like to be able to deal with the "curse." I am over 70 years old and wonder what would happen to the money I won if I died before I could collect it all.

*John H. Penn
Lake Forest, Calif.*

Editor's Note: Each lottery or sweepstakes has different rules and is subject to state laws. Many times, companies will offer to buy out your winnings for a lesser cash settlement up front.

My Flag, Too

ALTHOUGH I was not born in this great country, I am a naturalized citizen. With the intention of fighting in the Gulf War, I enlisted in the U.S. Army as soon as I graduated from high school. Unfortunately, by the time I arrived at my duty station, the conflict was over. I proudly served out the remainder of my enlistment and separated with a honorable discharge.

Now I am a full-time student and work in the veterans affairs section of my university. I am also vice president of the university's veterans' association as well as a member of the Florida National Guard.

Although I am not an American citizen by birth, I am one by choice. I have no qualms about displaying my American flag with pride and reverence. I have a deep love for the things that this country and the flag represent. Among other things, in my heart, the flag symbolizes freedom.

*Gonzalo O. Suarez
Miami, Fla.*

Emblem Idea

IHAVE been a member of The American Legion for almost 12 years. My father was a World War I veteran and member of The American Legion. While I was a small boy, I was always impressed with The American Legion emblem. The emblem was then always on the front cover of each Legion magazine.

I am proud of The American Legion and of its work for veterans. Let's ask other veterans whether they

would like to see their emblem back on the front cover instead of on the third page of each magazine. Keep up the good work you are doing for us.

*Jackie D. Thurston
Bristol, Va.*

New Debate

THE assertion that it wasn't until the Clinton administration that U.S. soldiers were ordered to wear U.N. symbols on their uniforms is incorrect. GIs assigned to the U.N. Honor Guard Company and those in the U.N. Security Force here have been required to wear U.N. insignia for decades. The precedent of U.S. forces operating as part of a U.N. effort was set during the Korean War. In fact, U.S. forces—which fought the Korean War under the control of the U.N. Command—were the major factor that ensured that South Korea could develop into the thriving and prosperous democracy that it is today.

*Michael F. Davino
Camp Henry, South Korea*

NEW did the right thing to show the rest of the world what he believed. He proved he was a real American soldier who stood by the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

*Electra Pearson
Ranger, Texas*

ARMY Specialist New should be reinstated, paid and applauded by every American citizen. Our Constitution must be obeyed as dictated in Article 1, Section 9.

*Donald E. Scheck
Spring Hill, Fla.*

NEW and I both swore an oath and signed a contract to obey lawful orders. Unfortunately, what the current administration did was lawful. Our present system of redress allows for judicial appeal and to vote: It does not allow us to usurp the Constitution or disobey orders for political reasons. To avoid our obligations for political reasons undermines the foundation of law that our democracy is founded upon.

Judging from New's actions and comments, it is apparent that he made his stand in order to be a political martyr. I cannot be more clear as a former sergeant and now a commissioned reserve officer: This is not the behavior of an American soldier. Obey orders, suck it up, drive on and then vote.

*Clifford F. Porter
Pomona, Calif. □*

WORLD SERIES

Continued from page 16

her. "Legion baseball is everything to my son. And The American Legion does everything for the kids. A lot of pride comes from the baseball field and leaves the field with players like my son."

Jim Hall of Rapid City, S.D., watched his hometown team's defeat unshaken in his attachment to Legion ball. "I'm here for Rapid City. Wherever they go, I follow," he said. "But even though our team didn't make it, I'm here for good baseball, and I've seen a bundle."

Professional scout Howard Bowens of the San Diego Padres came to see some good baseball too.

"When I played Legion baseball in Sacramento, Calif., I don't think I had the high standards I have today as I look for Major League potential," Bowens said. "The kids are bigger today, and I'm seeing some good talent. Legion Baseball has great coaches, and these guys produce some very good ballplayers."

Legion Baseball players measure up to the finest traditions of the game in tangible ways according to Sparky Anderson, who said there was a good chance some of the players in the tournament might go on to the major leagues.

In a red motorized cart that he used for wheelchair, Curly Craig of Roseburg watched the games day after day. "American Legion Baseball is very special to me," said the World War II Army veteran, who flies a U.S. Flag from his cart. "I love baseball, and I don't want to miss a minute of these players giving their all. It makes me feel young again."

Legionnaire Marcus McDonald of Post 2 in Fargo, N.D., summed up what Legion Baseball is all about: "It's more than building character and sportsmanship. Legion Baseball makes these kids into who they want to be." □

World Series teams and their season records:

Region 1 (Northeast) Post 317, Yardley, Pa., (45-11); Region 2 (Mid-Atlantic) Post 1447 Rockland County, N.Y., (52-36); Region 3 (Southeast) Post 342, Rowan County, N.C., (39-6); Region 4 (Mid-south) Post 81, Gonzales, La., (44-9); Region 5 (Great Lakes) Post 165, Midland, Mich., (53-12); Region 6 (Central Plains) Post 22,

Rapid City, S.D., (67-22); Region 7 (Northwest) Post 176, Vancouver, Wash., (51-13), and Region 8 (Western) Post 71, Sandy, Utah, (40-8).

Individual awards:

George W. Rulon American Legion Player of the Year and one \$2,000 scholarship from Buick—Christian Bourgeois, Gonzales, La.

James F. McDaniel Jr. Memorial Sportsmanship Award and \$2,000 scholarship from Gatorade—Andy Hoffman, Midland, Mich.

Louisville Slugger Batting Award (best batting average)—Bryce Gehlen, Vancouver, Wash., .514 average.

Bob Feller Pitching Award (most strikeouts)—Ben Sheets, Gonzales, La., 37 batters struck out.

Cowger RBI Award (most RBI)—Christian Bourgeois, Gonzales, La., 15 RBIs.

Rawlings Big Stick Award (most total bases)—James Jarreau, Gonzales, La., 34 total bases.

Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award (Coaches of the year)—Meade Tenaglia, head coach; Joe Ferraro and Paul Zavorski, assistant coaches from Yardley, Pa. □

—By Miles Z. Epstein

IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a reunion (see VETS' column) or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (see COMRADES IN DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis. If a notice does not appear within six months of submission, please resubmit.

Army personnel stationed at Camp Kilmer (N.J.) during WWII or Korea. Seeking information on operations for book on railroad logistics at the camp. Contact: David Hutchinson, 15 Hickory Hill Dr., Warwick, NY 10990.

Former members of 3616th OM Truck Co., 2nd Platoon or any others with knowledge of V-1 Buzz Bomb incident of Feb. 19, 1945 in the port of Antwerp. Contact: Alfred G. Kirchner, 116 Anthony Rd., Dalton, MA 01226; 1-413-684-3081.

Former members of 658th School Sqdn, Stewart Field, Newburgh, NY, 1942-45. Will provide a free roster over past 50 years. Contact: Robert C. Smith, Sr., 1920 Harper St., Newberry, SC 29108.

Former members of the 801st/492nd Bombardment Group who served at Harrington, Alconbury, Watton, Leuchars, at D or other stations whether ground, support or flying personnel. Contact: Pete Petrebon, P.O. Box 1613, Springfield, VA 22151-0613.

Information about the 7th, 8th and 9th Fighter-Bomber Sqds., 49th Fighter-Bomber Grp. During operations at Taegu, Korea, 1951-52. Contact: Morgan L. Koch, 414 SW 9th, Blue Springs, MO 64015-4239.

Love letters written during wartime for a book to be published in fall. All submissions will be returned. Contact: Susan Wallace, 308 Harrogate Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22406; 1-540-374-9261; wallab2@aol.com. Members of Co. B, 59th Ammored Infantry Bn, 13th Ammored Div., who served in Rhineland and Central

NOBEL PRIZE

Continued from page 23

They neither seek nor receive glory from the operation. They leave their homes and families to serve others, without being coerced.

As for claims of abuse by American soldiers, they must be judged against the standard of combatants in the history of human conflict. Here they are peerless in their efforts to avoid unnecessary civilian casualties, though perhaps not perfect.

Nobody needs to whitewash the record in order to see the merit in honoring the U.S. armed forces. Notwithstanding the black marks they deserved for My Lai and other incidents, it must be remembered that, even in Vietnam, American goals have been noble; in Southeast Asia, the failure of the American Army resulted in far more suffering than its success would have.

The bottom line is that the American military has done more to advance the cause of peace than any other organization in the history of the world. Giving the prize to the U.S. armed forces would send a message that, however noble the efforts of humanitarians, world peace depends most immediately on security and defense.

The Noble Peace Prize committee should not miss the chance next year. □

Europe in Spring 1945. Have photos to share. Contact: Joe Bligh, 2866 Daneland St., Lakewood, CA 90712.

Members of 52nd Field Hospital, 1942-45. Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Philippines willing to share war-time experiences, stories, photos or anecdotes for a unit history. Contact: Joe J. Aguirre, c/o Raymond G. Aguirre, 1140 N. 53rd St., Lincoln, NE 68504; 1-402-466-3994.

Members of Reefer Barges # 1-20, 35 T.C. Comp. Grp. WWII—Pacific 1943-46 for research and a book. Contact: William E. Lind, 3671 W. Brule Lake Road, Iron River, MI, 49935-7836; 1-906-265-3990.

Members of the 30th Regt., 3rd Inf. Div., who fought in France during WWII and are willing to give information for a historical book. Contact: Charles R. Castellaw, 437 Cratie Dr., Springfield, IL 38256; 1-901-642-8184.

Members of the USS PC-583 (Sept. '42-Sept. '46) for a completion of ship's history. Pictures and memories welcome. Contact: John J. Hunt, Jr. 1 Box 6, Scheller, IL 62883; 1-618-279-7227.

Members of VMF-211 or other MAG-12 Corsair squadrons (VMF-115, VMF-218 OR VMF-313) concerning duties of enlisted radio mechanics at Zamboanga, Southern Philippines during 1945. Contact: Gregg Kitson, 628 Wallace, Eureka, MO 63025; 1-315-938-5546.

Please turn to page 67

TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high National or Department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

Neale V. Cabral, CT National Vice Commander (1987-88), Department Chaplain (1974), Department Commander (1967-68), Department Vice Commander (1956-57; 1966-67).

WAR OF WORDS

Continued from page 25

deceive, that the Iraqis were just careful at hiding the launchers during periods when the satellite camera was orbiting. But anyone who doubts press complicity in Pentagon management need only see the cluster of reporters who surround officials at every briefing.

Still, for journalism, the Persian Gulf War was a milestone. Satellite television brought war to an international audience, all watching at the same time. Cable News Network had arrived.

Viewers had rarely tuned in CNN unless there was a blockbuster event, but the time allied troops began target-

ing through the air, and there were bursts of light in the sky, the result of Patriot missiles intercepting Scud missiles, resembling a child's Nintendo game. There were strewn tanks and blazing oil fires. There were even enemy soldiers surrendering to American reporters.

Satellite television also saw the dawning of "rooftop journalism," an era of parachuting journalists jumping into unfamiliar terrain, rushing to a hotel roof and announcing on-air that something was going on around them—sometimes before they had made a single inquiry. With the costs of maintaining foreign bureaus out of reach, many news organizations had devolved to crisis coverage, sending their best disaster reporters to cover each breaking story, often with no knowledge of the language, customs, culture, or politics of the country they had lit down in. No matter: On television, it looked like a war zone.

In reality, it might as well have been a Pentagon backdrop on a movie produced in Hollywood—lights, camera, war!

The advent of live coverage and rooftop reporting meant viewers had a rare opportunity to form their own opinions based on raw footage broadcast live. That the public sympathized in large part with Pentagon briefers attempting to win a war rather than pesky

reporters asking banal questions is not a surprise; what was unexpected was the depth of public anger at the press. Reporters' actions seemed to infuriate the public. In its first program after the war began, *Saturday Night Live* elected to satirize not the ribbon-bedecked generals or the bellowing Iraqis who flavored the story, but the American reporters who in daily televised press conferences showed their ignorance of military security, operations and objectives.

Critics like Howard Kurtz of *The Washington Post* lamented the "media circus." Politicians privately cursed the media's cynicism, a sort of "gotcha journalism" designed less to extract information from government officials than to skewer them.

But far from creating shoddy journalism, technology offers a showcase

for communication; like political leaders, journalists can excel or falter in its wake. Recalling the admonition that anyone who has respect for the law or sausage should never watch either being made, viewers might have been advised to avert their eyes, for the process of gathering news is clumsy. To put it on live television is to expose journalists to the ridicule of critics who prefer their news packaged neatly in 30-minute programs.

The Gulf War was also a wake-up call for the network news shows and all the other practitioners of news on a schedule. In contrast, CNN gave viewers news whenever they needed it.

Hours after Kuwait City was liberated by coalition forces, a CNN crew arrived in the middle of night, and decided to set up its truck, complete with satellite dish, in the middle of a four-lane highway with tanks strewn about and street signs askew. "We turned on the lights and saw graffiti scrawled on the walls," recalled CNN producer John Towriss. "The first three things I could see were: 'Welcome Allied Troops. George Bush Is Our Hero. We Love CNN.' We turned on the lights and started broadcasting, and Kuwaiti resistance fighters materialized out of the dark. I can't tell you how many people hugged me and kissed me and wanted to touch something that was CNN."

Baghdad too had calculated that it could influence public opinion through CNN's cameras, and let them stay when the others were booted out. And one CNN reporter, Peter Arnett, stayed behind when all the others had gone. Peter Arnett set a new marker for journalism. In truth, he was hardly behind hostile lines, having been invited to stay by an Iraqi regime that was convinced his reports would rebound to its benefit.

Outside Iraq, public reaction to this landmark was surprising. Nearly every day CNN got hate mail and angry calls. Senator Alan Simpson called Arnett "a sympathizer," provoking a huge furor within the media.

While Arnett was not the first journalist to visit the enemy during war—the *New York Times'* Harrison Salisbury had toured North Vietnam in 1966 and reported on civilian damage, to win the Pentagon's sobriquet, "Ho Chi Salisbury of the Hanoi Times"—no one had before this camped out on the enemy's doorstep. "War will never be the same because of what Peter Arnett did in Baghdad," said Stan Schragar, spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Haiti during the restoration

**'NO MATTER
HOW MUCH SPIN, EFFORT, LUNCH OR
DINNER YOU GIVE THE MEDIA, THEY
WILL NOT FAIL TO NOTICE WHETHER
YOU HAVE WON OR LOST.'**



JOHN E. MURPHY

ing Baghdad with nightly runs in January of 1991, CNN ranked nearly 7 million viewers, just a few million short of the other major networks. As CNN's Bernard Shaw, Peter Arnett, and John Holliman described the sights and sounds of aerial attacks outside their hotel window in Baghdad, Thatcher watched in Britain; Yeltsin watched in Moscow; Shamir watched in Jerusalem. Libya's Muammar Qaddafi watched in his tent in Tripoli, even calling the CNN control room to say he had a plan to resolve the conflict. Staffers assumed he was a crackpot and hung up.

For the first time since Washington's privileged ladies brought picnic lunches down to the Battle of Bull Run to watch an early Civil War battle, an audience had witnessed war. There was the noise of missiles hiss-

of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

The truth is that with international networks devoted to the fastest possible dissemination of news no matter its origin, there is no enemy territory anymore. The Iraqis invited Arnett to Baghdad to get their message to a vaster audience. It also gave real-time intelligence to U.S. military commanders, allowing them to assess damage to enemy territory. The battlefield for public acceptance has few borders.

IN THE history of military-media relations, it is often said that World War II was the apex. Journalists dressed in the uniforms of the units they accompanied. Ernie Pyle wrote home sonnets to the American fighting man. Edward R. Murrow intoned his great baritone to the cause of London's plight, describing German bombing raids with such clarity and metaphorical brilliance that Americans understood the agony of war.

If World War II was the peak of media-military relations, surely Vietnam was the nadir. As the war dragged on and the pictures painted by American spokesmen no longer matched the scenes witnessed by American correspondents, as body counts of enemy dead grew inflated at regular briefings dubbed "Five O'clock Follies" by the reporters, the dissonance between the military descriptions and the eyewitness accounts played out in the copy. Reporter cooperation turned to cynicism, and some of American journalism's top names—David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan, Peter Arnett, Morley Safer—made their reputations recording the transition.

Thus, the major lesson that U.S. military planners brought to the Persian Gulf War was the need for public support. They fought their fiercest battle for public opinion, and so did the political leaders who sent them off to war. The battle for public opinion was joined in Baghdad as well. Hoping to show his concern for the welfare of Western "guests" held by his regime in Iraq, Saddam inquired of seven-year-old British hostage Stuart Lockwood, "Did Stuart have his milk today?" The question, aired on Iraqi TV and picked up by CNN for satellite transmission, cemented Saddam's image as a tyrant.

But it is a misnomer to suggest that television changed the nature of the Persian Gulf War. Like other media technologies before it, satellite television may have speeded the war and even supplanted the function of diplo-

mats to carry messages, but it did not—could not—win victory in battle. Said Robin Renwick, former British ambassador to the United States, "No matter how much spin, effort, lunch or dinner you give the media, they will not fail to notice whether you have won or lost."

If satellite television advanced the pace of journalism, if it made news more potent on impact, if it traversed borders and forced agendas, if it gave viewers an impression of combat, that was as it should be—the novelty expected of new media inventions.

The sophisticated satellite dishes that brought the Persian Gulf War home would now bring pictures of misery and grief, starvation and execution, from places like Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi, setting off in their wake a CNN curve that would trouble diplomats and tax policy makers. The arrival of satellite television in the Persian Gulf War was not so much a revolution as a reminder. It was an early warning that the cycle of change, of speed, of influence, and finally of acceptance, was about to roll through once again, this time with a loud thunder. □

IN SEARCH OF...

Continued from page 65

Memorabilia, pictures or letters that can be used to tell the story of the 8th Air Force for the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. Contact: O.A. "Pete" Petrillo, American Legion Post 12, P.O. Box 807, Elyria, OH 44036.

Name of any person or association affiliated with the 96th Infantry Division of WWII for monument to honor units that passed through Camp White, OR. Contact: Mel Cotton, Camp White Historical Association, 72 Upper Applegate Rd., Jacksonville, OR 97530; 1-541-899-8842.

Names of grave registration companies of WWII and after. Contact: Charles D. Butte, 221 Shore Dr., Riviera Beach, FL 33404-2420; 1-561-863-1531; cdvib@aol.com.

Original company photos, service school photos, base pictures, news letters, menus, keepsakes, artifacts or any memorabilia relating to the Sampson Navy Base (1942-46) in Romulus, NY, for permanent display in the Sampson Navy Museum. Contact: Joe Pass, 234 Ostrander Rd., Windsor, NY 13865; 1-607-655-2423.

Postcards from "Yank" vets stationed in Britain from WWII to date, naming your air base and location for documentary. Contact: Anna Mae Hall, 920 North Walnut, Springfield, IL, 62702.

Veterans interested in forming a special group to help free hostages or who have any experience in such matters to act as advisors in training others. Also disabled veterans who are still mobile. Contact: Robert, Box 728, Bixby, OK 74008.

Veterans of 1st Combat Cargo Sq (redesignated 326 Troop Carrier Sq in Sept. 1945) and 344th Airdrome Sq, which served together in India and China from Aug. 1944 to Nov. '45, for their book. Contact: Gerald A. White, 1818 Barbee St., McLean, VA 22101; 1-703-734-7918.

Veterans who may have been exposed to asbestos desiring help to file a claim or ask questions. Contact: Duward D. Williams, 2319 Avenida Barcelona Este, West Palm Beach, FL 33415; 1-407-968-7485.

WWII Army or Marine Corps veteran having an amusing, interesting or poignant anecdote about chow or rations, for possible book by Army cook. Contact: James Cervone, 515 Lombard Road, Itasca, IL 60143; 1-800-506-7273 evenings.

MIKE FORCE

Continued from page 29

With graduation approaching, Howlett, Patton and Dougan are looking ahead to their next duty assignments. Dougan, who is active duty National Guard, will return to her unit in Tacoma. Howlett will be posted to a radio station in Iceland and Patton to an Air Force station in the Azores. Neither Howlett nor Patton have any gripes about their remote assignments.

"You are the troops' connection to home," Patton says, summing up both men's attitudes.

Besides, one never knows where fame and fortune will reach. There are many distinguished alumni of AFRTS. Pat Sajak. George Kennedy. Gary Collins. Casey Kasem. And of course, Adrian Cronauer, who coined the trademark wake-up call, "G-o-o-o-o-o-o-d Morning, Vietnam!" His Armed Forces Radio experiences in Saigon inspired the movie starring Robin Williams.

"If I had done half the stuff Robin did in the film, I would still be in Leavenworth," says Cronauer, now a communications attorney in Washington, D.C. He does admit to providing the music the troops wanted to hear. He abandoned Mantovani for The Beatles and a Top 40 music format. He also mixed humor with military bulletins.

"The one thing I tried to do in Vietnam was make it sound like a stateside radio program."

Minitez followed the same tradition at the *Voice of the Balkans*, as the Tuzla station styles itself. He says he knew what the troops wanted because he lived like them. His professionalism on the air caught the eye and ear of several major news networks.

"At first, I was being stereotyped by the commercial media as just another DJ, but what they didn't understand was that as military broadcasters, we are trained in all aspects—behind the scenes, in front of the camera, behind the mike—and they found that interesting. I was handed a couple of business cards and have actually been called a couple of times." □

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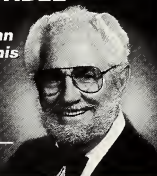
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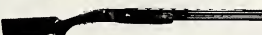
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Janie:

"The river or the state?"

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Generation X

Two young men were hanging around the forum in Rome. A lovely Roman woman passed by. One man whistled and said to the other, "Look at that, she's a perfect X!"

Death Breath

A man had been reading the life and death statistics put out by the government and said to his friend, "Do you know that someone dies every time I take a breath?"

The friend said, "You should try a breath mint!"

Picture Perfect

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A theater patron sat behind a woman who talked through the entire play. From behind her, the patron said, "I can't hear anything."

The woman responded, "Well, I wasn't talking to you!"

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A reporter asked the politician what he had to say about the latest scandal cover-up. The politician grinned and answered, "Another good story ruined by eyewitnesses!"

Un-seamly

Overweight is when you live beyond your seams.

Rope Trick

An old farmer was sitting on his porch, holding a small piece of rope. His guest, a city man, asked, "What's the rope for?"

The farmer said, "It's my weather vane." "How can you tell weather with that thing?" asked the city man.

"When it goes from side to side, it's windy. When it's wet, it's raining."

A Billion Here...

A constituent called his congressman and asked, "How long does it take the government to spend \$10 billion?"

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